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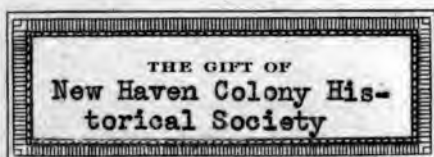
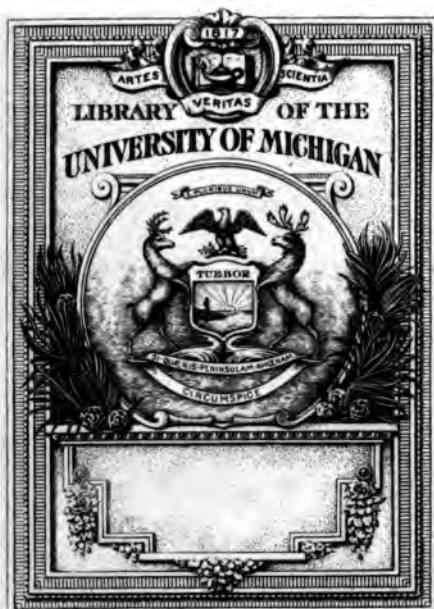
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CENTENNIAL OF NEW HAVEN

1784-1884







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THE  
HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
CITY OF NEW HAVEN,  
WITH  
THE ORATION  
BY  
THOMAS RUTHERFORD BACON,  
JULY 4, 1884.  
ALSO A PAPER ON  
NEW HAVEN IN 1784,  
BY  
FRANKLIN BOWDITCH DEXTER.



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Published under the direction of  
NORRIS G. OSBORN AND BURTON MANSFIELD,  
Of the General Committee on the Centennial Celebration.  
1885.



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## PREFACE.

No apology is needed for the appearance of this book. Although the events of Centennial Day are fresh in the minds of our citizens, the oration of Rev. Thomas R. Bacon and the paper by Prof. Franklin B. Dexter, contained herein, cannot fail to interest many, unable to hear them at the time they were delivered ; while it is hoped that the book, as a whole, will serve a good purpose in years to come.

The expense of publication is defrayed by the committee from the funds left, after all bills connected with the celebration were paid.





THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
CITY OF NEW HAVEN.  
BY  
BURTON MANSFIELD.

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FIVE of the cities of Connecticut were incorporated in 1784. New Haven and New London at an adjourned session of the General Court or, as it is called now, the General Assembly, held at New Haven in January; Hartford, Middletown and Norwich in May, at a session held at Hartford. As a matter of fact, New Haven's charter was granted on January 21, but legally, on January 8, the first day of the session, according to the rule that all acts took effect from that time unless otherwise ordered. The corporate name of the city, whose birth has so recently been celebrated, was originally "the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council and Freemen of the City of New Haven," but in 1869 this name was changed to the City of New Haven.

The charter contained the following provision: "that the first meeting of said city should be holden at the State-house in said New Haven, on the tenth day of February next, [1784] at nine of the clock in the forenoon, for the choice of the mayor, aldermen, common council and sheriffs of said city and to transact such other business as may be necessary; which meeting may be from time to time adjourned." The first city election occupied three days in its accomplishment

and it was not until February 12, that the local government was established.

The city of New Haven thus reached the hundredth year of its chartered existence in January, and of its governmental organization in February, 1884. And notwithstanding these one hundred years of the city's life find her still in comparative youthfulness, they have, nevertheless, been a period of steady and, in many respects, remarkable growth. A growth in area, population, industry, learning, and in all the various fields, which have combined to glorify her and make her renowned among the cities of the world. If it were my province to describe this growth and the elements which have made it, I would like to show "how the little one has become a thousand and the small one a strong nation;" to trace how the "old and new townships" of former generations have been merged and extended; how a portion of the city's seven hundred and fifty buildings, "destined," as President Dwight, of Yale College, wrote early in the century, "to be the material of a future conflagration," did succumb to that element in the famous fires of 1820 and 1837,\* and how of the remainder, in the slower and more certain process of destruction, which all advance produces, there is scarcely "one stone left upon another, that has not been thrown down;" how the four aldermen and twenty councilmen of the original act have become twenty-four and thirty-six respectively, working with the same zeal and the same fidelity which distinguished the earliest of the city's councilors, if not with equal talent and skillfulness; and how new offices, with their accompanying powers and duties, have been created, and new functions assumed, from time to time, as necessity demanded.

But it is with the history of a day, rather than of one

\* These fires are commonly known as the great fires of 1820 and 1837, but appear on the records of the New Haven Fire Department as of 1819 and 1836, respectively.

hundred years, that I have to do in the few pages I shall consume.

When Mayor Lewis, in his message to the Court of Common Council of 1884, first brought the matter into official notice by recommending the appointment of a committee to fix upon "a time, mode and manner of properly celebrating the creation and organization of the city," it was too late to commemorate the events referred to upon the exact anniversary of their occurrence, even if the season of the year had permitted it.

The New Haven Colony Historical Society also drew the attention of the public in this direction, by an able and interesting paper, entitled "New Haven in 1784," prepared and read by Professor Franklin B. Dexter, before the Society, January 21, 1884.

The recommendation of the mayor was acted upon early and earnestly. A general committee, consisting of representatives from the city government, the citizens and many of the local organizations, met for the first time on Thursday, May 8, 1884, and as its initial step selected July 4, next coming, as the day on which the celebration should take place. It thus appears that from the beginning, the nativity of the city and of the nation were to be commemorated together, although naturally the city's share in the festival was to predominate.

Suitable sub-committees to take in charge the details of the work were appointed forthwith. The undertaking advanced rapidly and its success was soon assured, in spite of occasional mutterings and thunderings, which temporarily blocked its way and threatened its existence. In response to a timely invitation, the general committee was augmented by the addition of many well known and influential citizens, and by representatives from a large number of the civic and military societies, not already represented. Moral and financial sup-

port was given by the public at large, all peoples and tongues joining in the preliminary labors as well as in the final ceremonies, while the press, at all times, gave welcome and valuable assistance. The affair was intended to be substantially local in its character and constitution, the participants, with few exceptions, being people born or bred in the city and growing with her growth.

The city aided the enterprise in a pecuniary way, and a competent finance committee worked steadily to raise the five thousand dollars, fixed by the general committee as the minimum amount with which the work could be thoroughly performed. And it is a fact worthy of recognition here, that at no time during their labors, were the members of the committee prepared for the general wave of enthusiasm which eventually rose in the people's hearts.

Friday, July 4, 1884, was a day of rejoicing. Everything bore a holiday appearance and almost everybody wore some symbol of the day. Thousands of flags, yards after yards of bunting and other decorations adorned the private residences and business places throughout the city, while the public and private buildings along the line of march were dressed profusely.

On the evening of the third, there was a concert, with fireworks and illuminations, upon the green, making an introduction to the program of the following day. This program, previously arranged with great care, was faithfully carried out as far as it was in the power of the committee so to do. With the rising of the sun on the Fourth, one hundred guns resounded from the base of East Rock, a signal that the celebration had begun. Church bells rung merrily and the small boy fired his crackers and his cannon with joy unceasing; already in the early morning the upper portion of the green resembled an old-time market place, booths reach-

ing from Temple street to Temple street again, along Chapel, College and Elm streets, respectively.

The first really distinctive feature of the day was the reception of His Excellency, Governor Waller, and staff, by the second companies of the Governor's Foot and Horse Guards and the Veteran Grays, at the New Haven House; from this place they were escorted to the City Hall, and there joined by the chief officials of several of the cities of the State and other invited guests. The party, thus made up, proceeded to Wooster Square, where the procession formed. The cars and boats had ere this brought to the city a large number of visitors, crowding the streets to overflowing. The bands, military and firemen from other towns and cities, transported at half rates, were marching through the streets awakening every thing and every body to a full realization of the day.

With a promptness commendable to his military skill, the chief-marshal moved the long procession within five minutes of the appointed time, eleven o'clock. The route of march was as follows: up Chapel street to York, York to Broadway, through Broadway around the upper park to York, York to Chapel, Chapel to Church, Church to George, George to State, State to Eld, Eld to Orange, Orange to Chapel, Chapel to Church, Church to Elm, Elm to and through the north entrance of the Public Square, where the line was dismissed.

The procession was of so great a length that the right of the line, after passing around the park at Broadway, down York street to Chapel and thence through Church, George and State streets, halted in order to allow the rear end of the line, just starting on its way, to pass up Chapel street; the counter-march which was introduced to enable the several parts to see each other, though long, did not suffice. Everywhere throngs greeted the parade, sidewalks and gutters in the central streets presenting a sea of human faces. Two hours and a half were

consumed in the march, including the rests, and the third hour passed before the review by the Governor and his staff, the invited guests and the Court of Common Council, in front of the City Hall, was over and the line dismissed.

Among the objects in the procession of a special interest may be mentioned the miniature ship, *Constitution*, borne on the shoulders of "six stalwart seamen" and occupying a prominent place near the head of the line. This little ship was picked up in the English Channel by the *Lark*, a New Haven merchantman, on a voyage from Marseilles, France, to New Haven, in 1768; it appeared at the head of the procession, July 4, 1788, the year in which Connecticut adopted the Federal Constitution,—and in which, also, the same was ratified by nine of the States—Roger Sherman, the first mayor of the city, being one of the signers for Connecticut; it also appeared in the commemoration of 1816, in honor of the treaty of Ghent, as well as that of 1838, upon the two hundredth anniversary of the town of New Haven.

A large barge, the *Columbia*, containing one young lady representing the Goddess of Liberty, and thirty-eight young ladies representing the States of the Union.

The Harugari Liedertafel Society, of New Haven, in decorated barges, with the members in costume and ladies representing *Columbia* and *Germania*.

The Volunteer Firemen, presenting a highly creditable appearance and showing the progress in the Fire Department, as well as the advance in fire apparatus, from 1784 to 1860, when the present competent department was organized.

A wagon prettily trimmed, containing the shell in which the Yale crew had carried the blue to the front, at New London, only a few days before.

The employees of the New Haven Postal Department, with the letter carriers on foot, followed by the mounted carriers

and mail wagons; all standing in sharp contrast to the simple system of a century ago, indeed, even of a quarter of a century ago, when an ordinary wheel-barrow served well its purpose of carrying the mails from the depot to the post-office; the old wheel-barrow and the veteran official, who for so many years had wheeled it, appeared in this section of the line.

Captain Traynor, who, it is alleged, subsequently started for Europe, with his dog and dory, attracted their share of attention.

In the Division of Trade and Industry many of the merchants and manufacturers made elaborate displays, setting forth the great progress which a century had produced in their respective branches, and exhibiting a variety of home products which the citizens had seldom seen, though in almost daily contact with them.

The Second Regiment of the Connecticut National Guard, the New Haven Fire Department and the various civic societies made, as always, an interesting appearance, while numerous companies of antiques and horribles provoked much applause and contributed greatly to the merriment of all observers.

The procession being dismissed, the local military and firemen entertained their guests at places bountifully supplied with good things, while the gentlemen of the press invited their fellow-laborers from abroad, to a table prepared for them in the City Hall. The vast crowd also changed its "bill of fare" and sought, for a time, refuge in some of the New Haven dining-rooms or in the more comfortable surroundings of home.

Four o'clock arrived and the old green was now the scene of action. Although the streets were yet well filled and seemed to feel but feebly the influence of the afternoon attractions, the crowd here was dense and enthusiastic. Day-fireworks to





arranged; for, during the afternoon, the blue of the western sky had gradually yielded to dark, threatening clouds, with an annual regularity whereof the memory of man scarcely runs to the contrary, and before the exercises at the church were over, there was realized, what had already been feared, a rain-storm. Fireworks were out of the question, centennial gunpowder being not more impervious than any other. The mass of the people turned away disappointed, while a few yet lingered, waiting for something, yet really expecting nothing. Surely the electric lights might and did burn in defiance of the rain, but the two thousand illuminating lanterns, bordering the green, only afforded the boys an opportunity to let off some surplus hilarity. At eight o'clock, the time fixed for the fireworks, the green was deserted and the quietness of a by-gone century filled the place,—the quietness of 1784, when her citizens did not even dream of the far-off centenary of the city, then just wrapped in its swaddling clothes.

It was not until Wednesday evening, July 9, that the display of fireworks occurred. Rain at intervals during Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, caused a postponement on each day, but Wednesday was fair, and the evening, though a little too bright for a pyrotechnical display, was a fine one. Thousands flocked to the green and awaited the signal boom which was to announce that all was ready. They had not long to wait. Hardly had the City Hall bell ceased striking eight, when with a bang and a burst the exhibition opened, and a most enjoyable one it was.

As fireworks frequently fall short of common anticipation, it was highly gratifying that on this occasion they proved successful. Without detailing, however, the numerous pieces given, it is fitting to speak of the final act, which was also the closing scene of public interest directly connected with the celebration. Supported on eight columns and tastily grouped

together were the letters of the city's name and the dates of the century's beginning and its ending; all burning in the most brilliant colors, with rays of light filling the intervening spaces. The letters and figures, as they vanished in the smoke, momentarily brought to mind the closing century, with all its changes for weal or woe and all its chances, lost or won; while as the last spark died away, a new century began. Let us hope that, in the providence of God, this new century will be blessed with a greater measure of prosperity than its predecessor, and that profiting by the experience of years, its brightest hopes and promises will be fully realized.

# ORDER OF THE PROCESSION.

Police.

Weed's Band.

Brig.-Gen. Stephen R. Smith, Grand Marshal.

Brigade Staff C. N. G.

Aids.

Veterans of Second Co. Governor's Horse Guards of New Haven,

Capt. John G. North commanding.

Members of the General Centennial Committee mounted.

Ship, Constitution.

## FIRST DIVISION. •

General George M. Harmon, Marshal.

Assistant Marshals.

Second Regiment C. N. G. (10 companies) in following order:

Second Regiment American Band, of New Haven.

Second Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps.

Signal Corps.

Col. Charles P. Graham commanding Regiment and Staff.

Co. I, Eaton Guard, Meriden, Capt. H. B. Wood.

Co. C, Sarsfield Guard, New Haven, Capt. Joseph H. Keefe.

Co. D, National Blues, New Haven, Capt. L. I. Thomas.

Co. H, Mansfield Guard, Middletown, Capt. E. O. Shaler.

Co. F, Grays (colors), New Haven, Capt. Geo. S. Arnold.

Co. A, Chatfield Guard, Waterbury, Capt. J. B. Doherty.

Co. G, Sedgwick Guard, Waterbury, Capt. P. F. Bannon.

Co. B, City Guard, New Haven, Capt. William Kaerhle.

Co. K, Light Guard, Wallingford, Capt. B. A. Treat.

Co. E, Light Guard, New Haven, Capt. H. R. Loomis.

Non-Commissioned Staff.

**Drum Corps.**

**Wilkins Guard, New Haven (Co. A, 5th Battalion) Capt. D. S. Lathrop.**  
**Capt. W. H. Lee, commanding Battery A, and Staff.**  
**Officers of Second Platoon, Battery A (of Branford).**  
**First Platoon, Battery A, Guilford, two guns, Lieut. A. S. Fowler.**

**SECOND DIVISION.**

**Colonel John G. Healey, Marshal.**

**Assistant Marshals.**

**Meriden Band.**

**Admiral Foote Post, G. A. R., No. 17, New Haven, Henry F. Peck, Post Commander.**

**Drum Corps.**

**Henry C. Merwin Post, G. A. R., No. 52, New Haven, Colonel Edward M. Graves, Post Commander.**

**Duffy Hall's Big 4 Drum Corps of New Haven.**

**Nathan Hale Camp, N. 1, Sons of Veterans, of New Haven, Capt. C. K. Farnham.**

**Drum Corps.**

**W. H. Pierpont Camp, No. 6, Sons of Veterans, of Hartford, Capt. L. Eugene Seymour.**

**Both Camps escorting Colonel W. H. Pierpont, Commander of Connecticut Division Sons of Veterans and Staff, in carriages.**

**Drum Corps.**

**Battalion of members of the Order of United American Mechanics, New Haven, W. G. Dickinson commanding, comprising:**

**Pioneer Council, No. 1, C. H. Porter, Councilor.**

**Washington Council, No. 7, Z. T. Strong, Councilor.**

**Garfield Council, No. 14, Wm. G. Dickinson, Councilor.**

**Drum Corps.**

**Battalion of members of the Order of Patriotic Sons of America, of New Haven, E. B. Stebbins, President, commanding, comprising:**

**Washington Camp, No. 1.**

**Camp No. 2.**

**Camp No. 3.**

**Camp No. 4.**

**Barge Columbia, containing one young lady representing the Goddess of Liberty, and 38 young ladies, representing the 38 States of the Union, in appropriate costumes.**



## Sassacus Drum Corps.

Ridgely Degree Camp, No. 3, I. O. O. F., of New Haven, C. B. Foster,  
Commander, three companies, comprising:

Sassacus Encampment, No. 1, Peter Terhune, Chief Captain.

Golden Rule Encampment, No. 24, George N. Moses, Chief Captain.

Aurora Encampment, No. 27, Gottfried Lehr, Chief Captain.

Columbia Band, of Branford.

St. Mary's Temperance Society of New Haven, John Coleman, Presi-  
dent; Martin Flinn, Secretary.

St. Francis T. A. & B. Society of New Haven, Wm. A. Kelly, President.  
Order of Knights of St. Patrick, M. Fahy, President, in coaches.

## THIRD DIVISION.

Captain Jacob P. Richards, Marshal.

Assistant Marshals.

Band.

New Haven Butchers' Association.

New Haven Bicycle Club, Capt. F. H. Benton.

Ramblers' Bicycle Club, of New Haven, Capt. Harry Weed.

Unattached Riders.

The Harugari Liedertafel Society, of New Haven, Frederick Henn-  
inger, President. In decorated barges, members in costume,  
and ladies representing Columbia and Germania.

Drum Corps.

Dwight School Cadets, of New Haven, Capt. Fred D. Baldwin.

Drum Corps.

Gile Continental Guards, of New Haven, Capt. Fred. Adams.

Drum Corps.

Eighth Ward Zouaves, of New Haven, Capt. Chas. F. Hubbard.

Battalion of Antiques and Horribles.

New Haven Horn Band, C. M. Harrison, Leader.

First Co. Fantastics, Antiques and Horribles, Capt. George K. Jewell.

Second Co. The Toocker Guards, Capt. L. E. Toocker.

Third Co. The Millerites, Capt. Chas. H. Miller.

## FOURTH DIVISION.

General Edward E. Bradley, Marshal.

Assistant Marshals.

Wallingford Band.

Second Company Governor's Foot Guards, of New Haven, Capt. E. J. Morse.

Veteran Grays, of New Haven, Capt. E. A. Gessner.

His Excellency, Governor Thomas M. Waller and Staff, mounted.

Major H. H. Strong, commanding Second Company Governor's Horse Guards and Staff.

Second Company Governor's Horse Guards, of New Haven, 60 men.

Hon. Henry G. Lewis, Mayor of New Haven; Hon. Morgan G. Bulkeley, Mayor of Hartford; Hon. D. N. Morgan, Mayor of Bridgeport; Hon. D. Ward Northrop, Mayor of Middletown; Hon. E. J. Doolittle, Mayor of Meriden; Hon. J. Andrew Pickett, Mayor of New Britain; Hon. George E. Starr, Mayor of New London; Hon. Hugh H. Osgood, Mayor of Norwich; Hon. Richard H. Golden, Mayor of South Norwalk; Hon. Henry A. Matthews, Mayor of Waterbury, Rev. Thomas R. Bacon, Orator of the Day, and Rev. W. E. Vibbert, D.D., in carriages.

The Board of Aldermen and the Board of Councilmen of the City of New Haven and City Officers, in carriages.

## FIFTH DIVISION.

## VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

Ex-Chief Engineer Hiram Camp, Marshal.

Assistant Marshals.

Columbia Band, of New Haven.

Ex-Chief Engineer Chas. A. Nettleton and Ex-Assistant Chas. E. Hayes.  
New Haven Veteran Firemen's Association, John H. Pardee, Foreman,  
100 men drawing hand-engine Hercules, No. 8.

Eagle Drum Corps.

Chief Engineer Charles S. Brown, Fair Haven East Fire Department.  
Quinnipiack Engine Co., No. 1.

Hose Co. No. 1.

Drum Corps.

Pembroke Engine Co., No. 1, of West Stratford.

Seymour Band.

Chief Engineer J. N. Whitlock, of the West Ansonia Fire Department.

Fountain Hose Co., No. 2, of West Ansonia.

Hotchkiss Hose Co., No. 1, of Birmingham.

Echo Hose Co., No. 1, of Shelton.

R. M. Bassett Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, of Birmingham.  
Band.

Chief Engineer Stevens, of Danbury Fire Department.

Humane Hose Co., No. 1, of Danbury.

Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, of Danbury.

Other visiting Companies.

#### SIXTH DIVISION.

Fire Commissioner Luther E. Jerome, Marshal.

Assistant Marshals.

Colt's Band of Hartford.

Chief Engineer Albert C. Hendrick.

Assistant Engineers Andrew J. Kennedy, William C. Smith, John L.  
Disbrow, and William H. Hubbard.

Steamer Fire Engine Co., No. 1, Capt. E. I. Barrett.

Steamer Fire Engine Co., No. 2, Capt. Edwin S. Davis.

Steamer Fire Engine Co., No. 3, Capt. Charles B. Dyer.

Steamer Fire Engine Co., No. 4, Capt. C. T. Langley.

Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, Capt. Charles H. Hilton.

Steamer Fire Engine Co., No. 5, Capt. Henry Tuttle.

Steamer Fire Engine Co., No. 6, Capt. Wilfred F. Spang.

Hose Co., No. 7, Capt. John W. Stoddard.

Steamer Fire Engine Co., No. 8, Capt. James J. Bradnack.

Hook and Ladder Co., No. 3, Capt. Henry J. Wilson.

#### SEVENTH DIVISION.

In three sections.

Major Ruel P. Cowles, Marshal.

Assistant Marshals.

Pequonnock Drum Corps.

Wagon containing the Yale Shell of 1884.

Tally-ho, with members of Thespian Club, J. E. Geary, President.

Employees of the New Haven Post Office.

In this division appeared a large number of vehicles, upon which were  
represented the different branches of TRADE and INDUSTRY.



Lieut. W. E. Jackson, Signal Officer, had charge of the signal stations, and made all necessary details from the Second Regiment.

The General Committee having the celebration in charge was made up as follows:

His Honor, Mayor Henry G. Lewis, Chairman.

Benj. R. English, Treas.

Burton Mansfield, Sec'y.

*Aldermen.*

|                  |                     |                  |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Frank A. Monson, | Isaac Strouse,      | Frank S. Platt,  |
| James E. McGann, | Alonzo A. Townsend, | John C. Bradley. |

*Councilmen.*

|                        |                 |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| T. R. Trowbridge, Jr., | Isaac Wolf,     | Burton Mansfield,      |
| Joseph C. Earle,       | Frank P. Mills, | Rutherford Trowbridge, |
| John J. Flynn,         | Chas. W. Gunn,  | Geo. C. Clarke,        |
| Hugh Dailey,           | John Merrick,   | James H. Goodsell.     |

*Citizens.*

|                        |                    |                     |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| John E. Earle,         | Minott E. Osborn,  | S. B. Shoninger,    |
| N. D. Sperry,          | John C. Gallagher, | C. M. Loomis,       |
| S. E. Merwin, Jr.,     | Fred. H. Waldron,  | James H. Wilkins,   |
| A. C. Hendrick,        | W. J. Atwater,     | Frederick A. Betts, |
| A. H. Robertson,       | W. H. H. Hewitt,   | R. W. Meigs,        |
| John B. Adriance,      | J. F. Gooding,     | Ellery Camp,        |
| Samuel A. York,        | Philo S. Bennett,  | C. W. Foster,       |
| Frank D. Sloat,        | Wm. J. Bradley,    | John E. Bassett,    |
| John Ruff,             | F. E. Harrison,    | R. P. Cowles,       |
| Thomas K. Dunn,        | Eugene A. Beecher, | E. E. Bradley,      |
| Luther E. Jerome,      | Samuel H. Crane,   | Jacob P. Richards,  |
| James J. Kennedy,      | C. P. Jordan,      | Michael S. Doohan,  |
| Benjamin Jepson,       | Charles Downes,    | S. S. Thompson,     |
| J. D. Whitmore,        | L. B. Hinman,      | A. O. Norton,       |
| H. N. Whittelsey, Jr., | Paul Weil,         | W. G. Butler,       |
| E. A. Anketell,        | H. P. Frost,       | A. M. Loomis,       |
| C. W. Scranton,        | Frank H. Hooker,   | E. C. Dow,          |
| N. G. Osborn,          | Chas. H. Townsend, | Clark Peck,         |
| F. C. Tuttle,          | John McCarthy,     | John W. Lake,       |
| H. P. Hubbard,         | Geo. H. Ford,      | Albert B. Hill,     |

|                    |                       |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| W. D. Clarkson,    | N. Easterbrook, Jr.,  | James D. Dewell,   |
| Ezra P. Merriam,   | Chas. Webster,        | James P. Pigott,   |
| Alfred J. Edwards, | A. L. Dillenbeck,     | Joseph T. English, |
| Herbert E. Benton, | Fred'k B. Farnsworth, | S. J. Fox,         |
| Adolph Asher,      | Geo. H. Larned,       | J. P. Studley,     |
| Theo. A. Tuttle,   | Charles F. Bollman,   | Max Adler,         |
| L. L. Morgan,      | John G. Healy,        | E. C. Beecher,     |
| S. R. Smith,       | A. H. Kellam,         | T. H. MacDonald,   |
| Geo. M. Harmon,    | James Gallagher, Jr., | F. H. Benton,      |
| Charles P. Graham, | Benj. R. English,     | Harry Weed,        |
| Eli Mix,           | S. H. Wagner,         | W. H. Stowe.       |
| Henry F. Peck,     | Timothy J. Crowley.   |                    |

*Military and Civic Societies.*

|                      |                   |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Frederick Henninger, | Louis Wechesser,  | L. P. Korn,      |
| John Coleman,        | W. A. Kelley,     | M. Schwed,       |
| H. C. Jennings,      | John E. Thompson, | Isaac Mailhouse, |
| Isaac Koch,          | James B. Rowe,    | E. B. Stebbins,  |
| Henry L. Clark,      | R. H. Johnson,    | Z. T. Strong,    |
| A. P. Smith,         | H. J. Landolt,    | W. H. Warner,    |
| Geo. K. Jewell,      | D. R. Adams,      | W. H. Chivers.   |
| J. E. Geary,         | M. Fahy,          |                  |

The following gentlemen acted as Chairmen of the various sub-committees:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Badges and Salutes</i> —S. J. Fox.     | <i>Literary Exercises</i> —T. R. Trow- |
| <i>Decorations</i> —John McCarthy.        | bridge, Jr.                            |
| <i>Finance</i> —B. R. English.            | <i>Locating and Renting Booths</i> —   |
| <i>Fireworks</i> —F. A. Monson.           | John W. Lake.                          |
| <i>Illuminations</i> —N. Easterbrook, Jr. | <i>Music</i> —A. C. Hendrick.          |
| <i>Invitations</i> —Henry G. Lewis.       | <i>Procession</i> —S. R. Smith.        |
| <i>Trades</i> —John B. Adriance.          |  |

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NO. 7 CITY HALL.  
NEW HAVEN, CONN., July 19, 1884.

REV. THOMAS R. BACON :

*My Dear Sir*—The Centennial Committee, for the proper observance of the hundredth anniversary of the incorporation and organization of the City of New Haven, beg leave to present to you their high appreciation and thanks for your very able and instructive oration, delivered in the Center Church, on the 4th inst., commemorative of said events.

They also respectfully request, in accordance with a very earnestly expressed desire of your fellow citizens, that you furnish them a copy of your discourse, with a view to its publication and preservation.

Permit me to assure you that your compliance with our wishes will be duly appreciated.

In behalf of the Centennial Committee,

HENRY G. LEWIS, *Chairman*.

NEW HAVEN, CT., July 23, 1884.

TO THE HON. HENRY G. LEWIS, MAYOR OF NEW HAVEN :

*Dear Sir*—In accordance with the request of the Centennial Committee, which you have conveyed to me in your note of the 19th instant, I will, at the earliest opportunity, hand to you a copy of the address, which I delivered in the Center Church, upon July 4th.

Allow me also to express my gratification that the address has met with the approval of the committee, and that they have expressed their appreciation in such kind and flattering terms.

Yours very respectfully,

THOMAS R. BACON.



# LESSONS FROM A CITY'S LIFE.

## AN ORATION

DELIVERED IN THE MEETING HOUSE OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN NEW  
HAVEN, JULY 4, 1884, ON THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN,

BY

THOMAS RUTHERFORD BACON.



## LESSONS FROM A CITY'S LIFE.

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FELLOW CITIZENS :

WE celebrate to-day two events which seem at first sight too far separate in importance to be commemorated upon the same day, and to have in fact only the slightest relation to one another. The first of these we remember every year with much of noise and pomp, the declaration of the independence of the United Colonies, the sudden uprising of a nation, already great, and holding the promise of immeasurable greatness in the future. It was recognized as an event of mighty importance, and the echo of the bell, which upon the fourth day of July, in the year of grace one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, proclaimed liberty through all the land, was heard throughout the world.

Of a very different sort was the second event which we to-day celebrate. A little village of less than 3,500 inhabitants changed its form of self-government, and thenceforth called itself a city. For in the year 1784 the State of Connecticut broke out with an eruption of cities. By acts of legislature the villages of New Haven, Hartford, Middletown, New London and Norwich were all invested with the new dignity. I cannot discover that these events produced any particular commotion in the outside world, except that our good neighbors of Massachusetts sent up a shout of derisive laughter at these funny little cities that Connecticut had brought forth, while their great and noble town of Boston



was then only a town, and desired to be nothing more. And even within the boundaries of Connecticut, and in "the glad, aspiring little burghs" themselves, these acts of the legislature were not hailed with the ringing of bells and the boom of artillery. Each new-born city upon its appointed day met and chose its officers. The city of New Haven met for the first time on February 10, 1784, and elected as mayor its most distinguished citizen, Roger Sherman, then absent from the city because Congress, of which he was a member, was in session, who eight years before as representative of the Colony of Connecticut had written his name beneath the declaration of independence, and who three years later as the representative of the sovereign Commonwealth of Connecticut was to write his name beneath the Constitution of the United States. And he did not decline to be the mayor of this little city of his habitation. And he was right; for to-day it adds luster even to his honored name, that he was the first chief-magistrate of this City of New Haven. It took the voters three days to elect all the officers, and it was only upon February 12 that the city fairly got going. But it has kept going ever since.

The reason for the sudden blossoming of the Connecticut cities is largely a matter of conjecture. It has been suggested that New Haven was seized with the desire to be as big as New York. Now New York had a city charter, therefore New Haven must have one, so she petitioned the legislature with success. Then all the promising little towns of Connecticut were seized with a desire to be as big as New Haven; so they petitioned likewise, and the legislature, desiring to be impartial, gave to all alike. This theory is supported only by the slightest evidence, and I am happy to discard it as being unworthy. I prefer to believe that the inhabitants of these towns and the Legislature of Connecticut were possessed of a

spirit of prophecy. These little towns were really rather too small for such a pretentious thing as a city charter. But they had a sublime faith that they would grow up to it. The careful mother may make a suit of clothes several times too large for her small boy. And when he appears in them the neighbors may laugh. But she has a full assurance of hope that before they are worn out they will have to be enlarged. The State of Connecticut seems to have exercised a similar prescience in the clothing of her infants. People laughed at them then, but no one laughs at them to-day. The charters that seemed so much too big, have had to be enlarged again and again. For down the long century with steady, stately tread, has marched the fair sisterhood of the Connecticut cities, in ever-increasing numbers and in ever-increasing beauty, with New Haven in the van. Can any space of the wide earth, so small as Connecticut, show such a sisterhood, so prosperous, so abounding in moral health, of such rare and varied beauty? Verily I believe not.

This second event which we celebrate to-day, namely, the incorporation of the City of New Haven, had really a great significance. It was not only the beginning of the corporate life of this fair and famous city, but it was the beginning of a new order of things for the State of Connecticut. For it is not the incorporation of New Haven alone that we now commemorate, nor yet the incorporation of those five cities of 1784. We commemorate rather the beginning of municipal life in this Commonwealth, the commencement of that phenomenon which in these days has changed the whole face of the State, and poured its life and energies through channels of which the fathers never dreamed. This celebration, therefore, is not for ourselves alone. Nor is it in behalf of those five original cities. The act which became a law January 21, 1784, and incorporated New Haven, laid the foundation

and furnished the model for the municipal government of all the cities of Connecticut. But the event had even a wider significance. There were already, indeed, several cities in the United States. New York and Albany had received charters from James II. in the year 1686. Richmond, then a very small village, had been incorporated in 1742. Philadelphia had also received a charter in 1701 from the proprietor of Pennsylvania. Besides these there were doubtless others.

But the incorporation of New Haven was, I believe, the first instance, certainly one of the first, in which one of the United States, acting in its independent and sovereign capacity, granted a city charter. And New Haven was, therefore, in its origin, the first distinctively American city incorporated by the law of an American state. Therefore this event has a real connection with the Declaration of Independence. For the growth of the cities has been one of the most remarkable and important features of the extraordinary development of the nation which came into being July 4, 1776. For upon the life of its cities depends in large measure the life of the nation. With its cities, the nation must stand or fall. In them are found concentrated its most threatening dangers, its brightest hopes. In the cities are all the extremes of culture and ignorance, of wealth and poverty, of virtue and vice, of lofty public spirit and of selfish greed. The more scattered rural population can only act as a check upon them, for in concentration there is strength, be it for good or evil. The cities, therefore, hold the future of the nation in their control; with them is the weal or the woe of this majestic republic. Not then as a light or trifling thing do we remember the first incorporation of a city in the United States. We remember it rather as an event of the highest significance, important not only in itself, but inexpressibly important in what it stands for, the municipal life of a great nation.

It has been announced that I was to deliver to you an historical address, and it might be expected that I would give you a sketch of what New Haven was 100 years ago. But that has already been done by a far more competent hand than mine, and with a completeness that leaves nothing to be desired. The paper read by Professor Dexter before the New Haven Colony Historical Society, and which is to be printed, has furnished me with almost all the information concerning New Haven in 1784, which I may incidentally use in the course of this address. To attempt to do what has been already so well done, would be an evidently superfluous work. Furthermore it is plainly impossible, in this short hour of a crowded day, to trace with any detail the history of the entire growth for a century. That is the work of the careful and laborious historian, who has unlimited time and the scope of printed volumes. And that such an historian is among us and that we shall in due time receive the fruits of his labors, we are glad to know. But the most that we can hope now to do, is to point out some of the lines along which the city has moved in its progress through the years.

The line along which the city has had its fullest development, is one of which the petitioners for the charter never thought. They hoped for a great commercial city sending out its merchant fleets to the ends of the earth; they did not expect a great manufacturing city, and yet New Haven has become such. In 1784 the manufactories of New Haven were apparently a paper mill and a blacksmith shop, and now our manufactured products in vast variety are found throughout the civilized world—and to the rise of the manufacturing interests more than to any other agency, nay, more than to all the rest put together, has been due the growth of the city from 3,500 to some 70,000 inhabitants. These vast industries of to-day, which have sprung from the mechanical inventions and discov-

eries of the century, have given to American civilization an unexpected aspect and development. In the history of its manufacturing industries New Haven has been peculiarly happy. Their great variety has saved us from those prolonged and extensive periods of depression and paralysis, which have fallen upon towns devoted to a single industry. The same cause has prevented such great struggles between labor and capital, culminating in wholesale strikes and lockouts, and entailing much misery and suffering, which have been so frequent elsewhere. This growth of manufactures in the State of Connecticut has had the effect of driving the population away from the barren farm lands to the villages and cities, and thus changing the whole character of its life. And in this great change New Haven has taken the lead, until, by the census of 1880, our gross manufacturing products were valued at \$24,040,225, our net products at \$9,558,062. The number of hands employed was 15,156, and the amount paid in wages \$5,761,375. Surely here is something that helps to account for the century's growth. And we cannot leave the subject without calling to mind how much New Haven has contributed, by the inventive genius of her sons, to the general prosperity of this and of all civilized lands. It is not, therefore, by statistics of her own products, nor indeed by any other means, that we can measure the contributions of our city to the industrial progress of the world.

The discordant sounds of the factories; the rush of steam, the whirl of wheels, the clang of machinery, the beating of hammers to the finer ear blend into the harmony of a mighty creative music. It is fabled that the sweet lyre of Amphion, touched by the fingers of the master, availed to build the walls of Thebes, the insensate stones moving to its dulcet cadences. And this loftier, diviner music has built, not one city alone, but the cities of a continent, and has covered the face of the land

with prosperous villages and thriving towns. And doubtless for us this is the music of the future.

As I have already said, the hopes of the petitioners for the charter looked towards the growth of New Haven as a commercial port, engaged in foreign trade, and it may seem at first glance as if these hopes had been disappointed. But however illusive they have proved, they certainly were grounded in experience. From the very earliest times the commerce of New Haven with foreign ports, and especially with the West Indies, was considerable. Just before the opening of the revolutionary war in 1775, there had been forty vessels, engaged in foreign trade, owned in New Haven. At the close of the war there was but one. And now in 1784, less than two years after the signing of the treaty of peace, there were thirty-three, most of them in the West India trade, though some of them sailed for other foreign ports. This extraordinary revival of shipping might well lead men to believe, that New Haven was to be great in virtue of its foreign trade. But the far superior harbors of New York to the west, and Boston to the east, and various great changes in the courses of trade, to which I shall refer in a moment, left New Haven far behind in the matter. And yet the foreign trade of New Haven has steadily increased from that day to this, except during the years of the last war with England. It was a matter of surprise to me to learn upon unquestionable authority, that there is more tonnage engaged in foreign trade owned in New Haven to-day than ever before. But we almost lose sight of the foreign trade of New Haven, in the development of a domestic commerce, which was as unexpected by the fathers, as was the rise of the manufacturing industries. The extension and settlement of the territory of the United States, and the wise provision of the constitution whereby the states surrendered the right to lay import duties against one another,

have opened the breadth of a continent to unrestricted trade. From Maine to Florida and California, among 50,000,000 of people, commerce is absolutely unshackled. Freedom of trade between the States, accelerated by the introduction of railroads, steam navigation, and the telegraph, has resulted in an internal commerce of astonishing proportions. In this development of commerce New Haven has had its full share. How little could our predecessors, of one hundred years ago and more, guess that the steadily increasing and important foreign trade of New Haven would be almost lost to sight in the mighty flood of an unrestricted and unfettered domestic commerce. The change can hardly be better illustrated than by the fact that in the year of incorporation, the city had no bank and needed none. And this commercial greatness of the nation and the city has come from absolute freedom of trade between the thirty-eight United States, and the vast territories which they control.

And these considerations of the growth of manufactures and commerce, lead naturally to the subject of the increase of wealth in the land, and especially in the cities. New Haven is one of the richest cities in the country in proportion to its population, and in no city of the same or greater size is wealth more evenly distributed. And yet here as everywhere, by a natural law which no human legislation can annul, we see the tendency of wealth to accumulate in the hands of the few. The truth, "To him that hath shall be given," is written in the very constitution of the human race. There is gradually growing up in this city, as in every city, a class of men who do not feel it necessary to work for a living, and who are able to live on the interest of invested money. The growth of such a class in any community is its greatest blessing or its greatest curse. For there is a vast amount of work which must be done for the public good, which does not pay, and

which cannot be done by men who earn their bread in the sweat of their brows. They have no time for these things. Their energy is absorbed by more primitive and intimate duties. But they, who have financial competence, are called to other work and other duties, no less important, though they may seem less pressing. Moneyed men may be the salvation of any community in which they live, if they will devote the time which their lot has given them to the public good. They have time, that blessing which is denied to most of us. They may devote themselves to the study of scientific and social and economic problems, whose solution shall benefit mankind. They may look to the administration of justice and the enforcement of law. They may enter into our political life, without the necessity of making a living out of politics, and without the temptations which beset poorer men in the same sphere. They can afford to give attention to the sanitary and moral conditions of our life, to public improvements, to the health and morality and prosperity and beauty of the place of their habitation. When men of wealth thus conduct themselves, they are the safeguard and glory of the city where they dwell. But when you see a city, where the men of wealth give themselves up to making a vanity fair of life; where they devote their whole energy to musical festivals, and dramatic festivals, to alleged high art and queer pottery, where they make the collection of bric-a-brac the business of life, and devote their abilities to trying to live up to some ugly piece of blue china; in such a city you may also see misrule, the miscarriage of justice, disorder, mob-law, violence, riot and bloodshed, with nights of terror and with days of fear. And where a class of moneyed men devote themselves to gambling in stocks and the produce of honest industry, to making, for their own behoof and pleasure, factitious fluctuations in the prices of the necessities of life, and arbitrary changes in the value of work-



ingmen's investments, there you will see demoralization, dishonesty, ruin, and the grinding of the faces of the poor; and behind all these, you may see the ill-omened working of dangerous forces, which may one day blow the whole social fabric into the air.

This land and the world has already seen enough, and more than enough, of the flippancy and tyranny of wealth; so great are the perils of the misuse of wealth in the hands of the few, where it has been put by the inevitable operation of natural law. History is ever repeating itself in illustrations of the evils of riches unworthily used. And yet the operation of the law is beneficent. When men of financial competence invest their money in sound and honest enterprises, so that it may give employment to sound and honest industry, they are making the best use of it, and are contributing to the prosperity of every class. And when such men give the time, which has been given to them, to those public affairs which do not pay, and to those measures for the public good to which most men have no time to give, they are doing the work appointed for them in this world. At no time in the history of our country has the responsibility of wealth been so great as now. It is in this regard a very critical period. And the course of our men of wealth will largely determine the future of our nation. And, thank God! there are unmistakable signs that rich men are more and more feeling their responsibility and the burden of duty which is laid upon them. More and more, men who are born to wealth are growing up to know that, because the necessity to work for a living is not theirs, therefore there rests upon them the larger and grander necessity of working for the life of the nation and of the race. I am persuaded from the signs of the times that the next generation shall know the blessings that come from the faithful ministry of wealth.

It would be in vain, at this hour, to try to enumerate the prosperous citizens of New Haven who have made honest and beneficent use of their opportunities for the public welfare, from the days when the wealthy Theophilus Eaton led out his colony from England to the wilderness of Quinnipiac, and devoted his life, his energy, his means, and his rare wisdom to the prosperity and good of the plantation of New Haven. The goodly succession of public spirited citizens which began with him has never failed. The names of many whose work has entered into the very life of the city, would sound strange in the ears of this generation. But to-day a blessing breathes upon the poorest child, through the branches of these stately elms around us, the glory of the town, which keep green the memory of Hillhouse, and unborn generations shall utter with thankfulness the name of him, so lately gone from among us, who in his last days led the sinuous way along the mountain side, which opened up to the people the unknown beauty of East Rock, and which shall add to the fame of New Haven among the cities of the earth. And I feel sure that the successors of these men will not be wanting in the years to come. Here as everywhere, there will be those who will make evil use of wealth, but I am persuaded that there will also be, in ever increasing numbers, those who will be faithful stewards of the great trusts committed to their charge.

The most marked difference between the New Haven of 1784, and the same city in 1884, is in the increase of population. But hardly less marked than this, is the change in the character of the population. The people of New Haven, a hundred years ago, were almost all natives of New England and of unmixed English blood. The great emigration to New England, which began in 1620, ceased after 1640. The people who came were mainly of the sturdy English middle class, who preferred exile to tyranny. A few more of the same sort

joined them after the restoration of the Stuarts in 1660. Thenceforth there was very little immigration of any sort to New England until after the revolution. These people were industrious, and soon became prosperous, in this new land. Their marriages were early and fruitful, and they increased and multiplied, and their descendants constituted almost the entire population of New England one hundred years ago, except for the comparatively small number of imported negroes. As late as 1801, when the population of New Haven was estimated at 4,000, the number of persons of foreign birth was 142. And to-day about one-half of our population are foreign born, or the children of foreign born parents. And here we touch upon the cause of the marvelous development of the city and of the nation. Had we had to depend upon the descendants of the Americans of the revolution for population, we should to-day be weak and small among the nations of the earth. But we have been made strong and great by the vast flood of immigration which has come to us from foreign lands. These aliens, coming to us, have built up our industries, have developed our agriculture, have constructed our railroads, have made us what we are. And we have welcomed them and made them our brethren and our fellow-citizens, and they are no more aliens among us. Wherever in the old world, men have felt the stress of overpopulation or social and political wrong, they have turned their eyes with hope to this free land, and millions have come to begin a new and prosperous life in a new and uncrowded world. And now they are with us and of us. Their old national names may be remembered for a time, but they have become in very deed Americans.

Who are they who to-day partake in this celebration? Some of them are indeed the descendants of those who petitioned for the charter of 1784. And more are descendants of the old

Puritan stock. But a vast proportion are those, whose ancestors one hundred years ago were dwellers in foreign lands and who had no faintest thought or vision that their children of the third and fourth generations would be Americans. In thus opening her doors to the poor and distressed in every land, our land has become the benefactor of the world, and in her benefaction has found her own might and greatness. In her has been fulfilled the word of the prophet, which he spake, saying: "Thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night, that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles." And now in these latter days we seem to be getting frightened at our own greatness, and at the sources from whence it has sprung. When we look about and see what a vast number of people there are in the world, and how many of them have set their faces toward our shores, we begin to fear that we shall be swamped in the great incoming tide. And then these foreigners who make the bone and sinew of our nation, have brought a great many undesirable persons with them, the offscourings of other nations, and these make us very uncomfortable.

Now fellow citizens, Americans, wheresoever born, if we have not the strength and force not to be swamped, we had better gracefully go down, and let a stronger and abler people take our place. Furthermore, immigration however good must always bring with it this wretched and evil class. Even when the Puritan planters of New England came over, they brought with them a set of lawless, worthless, depraved rascals, the very dregs of English society, scamps whom it would be hard to match in any subsequent immigration, and yet the country has survived it—so far. I do not know whether it is because I am so old and conservative, or because I am so young and enthusiastic, but I have a firm, unshaken faith that still this country, our mighty mother, has "room about her hearth for all man-

kind," and will have for centuries to come. I have ~~size~~ belief in our institutions, in their beneficence and elasticity and power, that I am persuaded that they can mould ~~into~~ one homogeneous people, all who come to our shores; ~~that~~ we have a place for any man, who flees from poverty and oppression in other lands, and who is able and willing to earn his living, be he Parthian, Mede, Elamite or a dweller in Mesopotamia. Therefore I say, "Whosoever will, let him come."

In thus reviewing the lines along which New Haven has developed, it is impossible to ignore that feature of its life which has given it its widest fame, and which has made known above so many of its cotemporaries, the fact that it is an academic town. Since the Collegiate School of Connecticut was removed to New Haven in 1718, and was named Yale College, it has always given to the place a peculiar renown, which has drawn hither distinguished residents and guests. In 1780 the college had nominally some two hundred and sixty students, but probably the number actually in attendance at any one time did not much exceed two hundred. The officers of the college were eight in number, including the treasurer and steward. The growth of the university since that day, if it has not kept pace in numbers with the growth of the city, has certainly kept up with the progress of sound learning, and the rapid increase of scientific knowledge. We, citizens of New Haven, are proud of the long list of the illustrious names of those who have here become famous as scholars and educators, some of whom have gone hence, but many of whom are with us to-day, and who by their labors have made our city known, wherever culture and knowledge are cherished. And we feel to-day in the air the greeting of the thousands who look back to New Haven with affection, as the beautiful city of their beloved *alma mater*. The city and the university are now both too large to feel that petty jealousy and hatred which in

other days had often most serious consequences. Time was, when dread of a collision between the two made life here somewhat uncomfortable. Time was, and not so long ago but that many of us remember it, when instead of firing cannon to celebrate a boating victory of Yale, citizens of New Haven leveled their artillery, loaded to the muzzle, at the college buildings, and would have fired, too, had not a sagacious public officer spiked the guns. But such days are, we believe, over forever. Certainly the feeling which exists between the college and the city to-day is such, that each is proud of the other.

It would be easy and profitable to treat the development of the city along various other lines; to show the growth of professions, the increase of various trades, the upspringing of our educational system, and many other ways in which there have been marked changes and advancement in the last hundred years. But for this time fails. But I cannot leave the matter entirely without allusion to that which lay at the very root of the colony, and which moulded its life into such peculiar forms. I mean its religious and ecclesiastical institutions. It was for religious and political freedom that the planters of this colony came forth from their own country, not knowing whither they went. For this liberty they forsook homes and lands and friends, and here in the wilderness they built their shrine for conscience sake. They came for their freedom, and if in its defense, in fear of encroachments upon it, they took measures which seem to us intolerant, it is not for us to cast stones at their sepulchres. If we blame them, little do we know

“What sorrow of heart was theirs,  
Who travailed in pain with the births of God,  
And planted a State with prayers.”

This ancient church, in whose house of worship we meet to-day, is coeval with the town. In fact, it was the town in

the early days. None but communicants here were allowed to take part in public affairs. These men had come hither, at mighty cost to themselves, in order that they might worship God in their own way. This was their place, for they had made it; and they proposed to keep it, and to guard against every possible danger. At a great price they had obtained this liberty, and they were freemen who knew their rights and, knowing, dared maintain! And this manly and persistent defence of their own liberty, singularly enough and unexpectedly to them, laid the foundation of that liberty which we all enjoy to-day. They sowed the seeds of freedom with toil and pain. To-day we reap the harvest with great rejoicing. The principle, which they bravely and persistently maintained, has in the intervening years matured its legitimate fruits, and liberty of conscience is secured for all men. Already in 1784 there were two other churches of this order, and a little Episcopal church on Church Street, still regarded with suspicion by thorough-going patriots, and a small dwindling congregation of a peculiar sect known as Sandemanians.

And now around this central spire how many houses of worship rise, at the sight of many of which our fathers would have lifted their hands in holy horror. For not only has the Congregational order increased and multiplied, but that Protestant Episcopal Church which was so much suspected one hundred years ago, has waxed strong and useful, and has commanded the respect and honor of all men. And here are the Methodist churches, monuments of that mighty revival of religion in which Wesley led. And here are the churches distinguished by their adherence to that principle for which Roger Williams suffered exile from Massachusetts. And hither has come the great historic church of Christendom, which is in so true a sense the mother of us all, which regards us indeed with pity, as erring and prodigal children, but whose pity we

repay with reverence for her august history, for the brave strength with which she brought down from the ancient to the modern world the lights of pure religion and sound learning, which were like to go out in the darkness and tempest of mediæval Europe, for the courage and magnanimity with which, in the days of her strength, she spread her protecting wings over the poor and oppressed in every land to save them from the spoiler—whose pity, I say, we repay with reverence for what she has been, yea, and for what she now is. And hither, too, have come the children of that most ancient faith from which the Christian faith has sprung, and here Israel after the flesh have reared their synagogues, and here they worship the God of their fathers in their fathers' way. Verily a great change has come over the place since the days when this was the only church, and every one in the plantation had to come here on Sunday, whether he wanted to or not. And it was because the first planters so sturdily contended for their own liberty, that they won this liberty for us. Wherever honest men successfully battle for their own rights, they always win high privileges for those who come after them.

But we can pursue no further the course of the city's development. It is time now to turn in closing to the thought with which we began, that the right government of cities in a republic is the great problem which now faces us. If we can in practice reach the true solution of this problem, all will be well; if we cannot reach a true solution, woe be to us? We are not yet a large enough city to feel greatly the pressure of this problem upon ourselves, but its shadow is already over us, and, if our growth and prosperity continue, we shall soon have to face it in all its magnitude. And it can only be met successfully by all good citizens giving their first interest to municipal affairs. If the dwellers in cities would give as much and as intelligent attention to a municipal election, as they do to a



national one, the greatest dangers to our civilization *would* disappear. If we will take care of the cities, the republic *will* be very well able to take care of itself. It is a matter for keen regret that the politics of our cities have become so entangled with national politics. When a man is a candidate for an office in the city government, the first question that we ask concerning him is the very irrelevant one: to what political party does he belong? as if that ought to make any difference. The questions which we ought to ask are: What are his views upon sewerage and sanitation, upon public improvements, upon various subjects which may be within the reach of city ordinances? Are his character and energy such as to make him a good public servant? Will he feel his responsibility to the people in the exercise of the trust committed to his charge? What have his views upon the tariff or upon the interpretation of the Constitution of the United States, or his preference for any national party, to do with his fitness for a municipal office? But the working of our political system has unfortunately been such, that in local elections we are apt to look beyond local interests to the necessity of carrying the State or the Nation, and so our cities are largely governed by accident, or misgoverned, or scarcely governed at all. If there is salvation in store for this land, it must come by renewed attention on the part of citizens to municipal affairs. City government must be disentangled from national politics, and this can only come about when the great bulk of citizens, who have no axes to grind, no political preferment to seek, nothing but the well-being of the city at heart, will set themselves to this work. We must work out our own political salvation, and eternal vigilance must be its price. And we have reason to rejoice that in some of the larger cities, where the evils of lax and corrupt government have been becoming intolerable, this simple principle is being practically recognized, and in the question

as to who shall hold a city office, fitness for the office is somewhat considered. Even here where these evils are in a less evident stage of their development, we have sporadic attacks of this same uncommon sense. The gentleman who now holds the chief magistracy of this city, holds it not because he is a Democrat, certainly not because he is a Republican, but because he has been weighed in the municipal balance and not found wanting.

Fellow Citizens: "The lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, we have a goodly heritage." It has come to us from the fathers, we hold it in trust for the generations to come. What shall we do with it? Shall we transmit it to posterity, more beautiful in outward seeming and in inward grace than it came to us? Or shall we waste our fair portion in riotous living, and by our unfaithfulness give to our successors only the broken remnants, the shattered residue of what was once so goodly and so great? Upon the dwellers in cities rests a double duty, a double responsibility. According as we discharge that duty and responsibility, the future of this nation shall be bright and splendid, or its government shall be from top to bottom, not government at all, but one wild ochlocracy. It is ours to determine what shall be, and I have faith that we shall determine aright. We must lose sight neither of the actual nor of the ideal. We must not forget or ignore the mean and petty details of our political life, its paltry corruptions, its wearisome particulars. We must not lose sight of these things, for in their correction and in their administration, lies the work which is given us to do. But we must not dwell on these things alone. If we do, we shall become depraved or disgusted. We must look, not only at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen. We must ever keep in sight that ideal city, which rises above these gross particulars, that fair city of hope and beauty and righteousness

and splendor, to which we may never attain, but toward which we may ever approximate. If we lose sight of the actual, we shall become impractical and useless; if we lose sight of the ideal we shall miss our inspiration and become mere material laborers for the meat which perisheth. And not from the ideal of the future alone may we draw inspiration, but also from the memory of the past. As we look backward, our eyes must rest to-day upon the famous Sunday in "the far off year," 1638. The bay stretched out in blue beauty to the sound. The grand sheer faces of the everlasting hills rose in solemn majesty to the north; and between the water and the cliffs sloped upward the budding verdure of the wooded plain and beneath the spreading branches of an oak, sat a little company upon whose ears fell the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." And when the service was ended, they arose, and went to prepare the way. "And the wilderness and solitary place were glad for them." "And all these, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise, God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." For to-day, from the blue waters to the stately hills, the forest is gone, and in its place rise the spires and habitations of this beautiful and prosperous city, whose glory we now celebrate. What has happened in the intervening time? Who hath done this? Davenport and Eaton laid the foundation, but other men have builded thereon. Walk through the silent streets of yonder cemetery, and read there the names of soldiers, sages, saints, who have given their strength and greatness to the place of their abode. And there, too, you will read the names of many whose record is forgotten, but who, not less than their more famous fellow-citizens, have contributed to the welfare of the city. They rest from their labors, but their works do follow them, because they prized their own Jeru-

saalem beyond their chiefest joy. From the dust of the remembered and the unremembered dead, who served their generation in faithfulness and hope, who through faith and patience labored for the common good, there comes to us to day a commandment and an inspiration that we also serve our generation and the generations that are to be. The hope of the future and memory of the past alike call upon us to do the duty that lies nearest to us. And the glorified city glitters from the skies. No free institutions can ever perish, unless, first, faith in them has died out from the hearts of the people. We must believe in our city and our nation. We must walk by faith and not by sight. And we know that this high devotion to ideals is yet strong among us. The turf upon the graves, where we strew flowers from year to year, is yet too young, there are left among us too many of the heroes of the war for the union, for us to think that high devotion and disinterested patriotism are things of the past.

Well we remember the days, when the flower and strength of the North rushed forth to war, not counting their lives dear unto themselves, for the sake of that ideal, that abstraction, the integrity of the national union. Vast as were the practical gains for freedom which resulted from that war in the liberty of a race, it was not for this, but for a pure abstraction, a lofty ideal, that men were willing to forego home and friends and the promise of youth, yea, even life itself. The impulse which sent them forth was not sensible,—it was sentimental, it was divine. And this same spirit has not departed from among us, and it must set itself to harder work, work which is harder because it has no crown of glory, no wreath of bays. The high faith must lend itself to the work-a-day business of orderly government. But the faith must ever be kept high and pure. It must be real faith.

“ No age was e'er degenerate,  
Unless men held it at too cheap a rate.”

Therefore, I say, believe in our country. Dare not to think that the triumph of any political party can ruin her. For when we think that, she is already ruined. Let us keep bright our faith in this sturdy little State of Connecticut, for when that fails, she will not be worth saving. And fellow-citizens of New Haven, let us make firm our faith in the future of our beautiful city, and let it be the faith which is manifest in works. Let us continually labor, that here, first of all, may be good government, sound morality, honest prosperity. And while we care for this fair city of our earthly habitation, we are "seeking a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God."

The story of revelation, which begins in a garden, ends in a city. It starts in Eden, but it brings us to the New Jerusalem. And human life must ever find its finest and highest development in the cities. And to us is given the opportunity for that highest success. If in our city life we reach the level which we ought to reach and which we have the ability to reach, we shall be workers together with Him who out of the old is ever evolving a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. If we can set our cities right, then will all things prosper.

# NEW HAVEN IN 1784.

A PAPER

READ BEFORE THE NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
JANUARY 21, 1884,

BY

FRANKLIN BOWDITCH DEXTER.



## NEW HAVEN IN 1784.

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ON the evening of January 21, 1784, the President of Yale College wrote in his diary: "This afternoon the Bill or Charter of the City of New Haven passed the Governor and Council, and completes the incorporation of the Mayor, four Aldermen and twenty Common Council." It is fitting to recall on this anniversary some characteristics of the New Haven of 1784.

The town then covered the territory now occupied, not only by the present town, but also by West Haven, East Haven, North Haven, (the greater part of) Woodbridge, Hamden, and Bethany, in all an area of perhaps ten by thirteen miles, or from ten to twelve times as extensive as now.

The inhabitants were estimated at 7,960 souls; of whom 3,350, less than almost any one of our wards to-day, were in that part which was chartered as a city. There are now within the town-limits of 1784, by a more than tenfold increase, some 87,000 inhabitants, while the city proper has multiplied more than twentyfold.

In the settled part of the city (that is, the original nine squares, called "the town-plat," and the south-eastward extension to the water, known as "the new township"), there were some 400 dwellings, mostly of wood, but a good number of brick, and one or two of stone. A nearly contemporaneous map (1775) on our walls shows that these dwellings lay almost wholly in the area bounded by Meadow, George, York, Grove,



Olive and Water streets,—the northern part of this area being by far the least fully inhabited.

The streets were without regular lines of trees, without pavements, sidewalks, or names; but it was an awkward mode of designation by localities identified with personal names (as we still speak of Cutler Corner); and eight months after the charter was given, 21 of the principal streets (Broadway, Chapel, Cherry, Church, College, Court, Crown, Elm, Fair, Fleet, George, Grove, High, Meadow, Olive, Orange, State, Temple, Union, Water, and York) received at a city meeting their present names. A few may have been already known by these titles; I dare not affirm it of any but College and Chapel streets, in both which cases the names were applied only to the immediate vicinity of the two college buildings which occasioned them. A few more had been known by other names: thus, the lower part of Church street was called Market street, from the market-house at the open intersection of George and Church; State street is called on the map of 1775 Queen street, a designation which would seem to go back to distant Queen Anne; part of George street was long known as Leather lane; York street was sometimes called West street, and Grove street North street.

Of the new names Church street was suggested by the Episcopal Church which stood on the east side of that street, a little nearer to Chapel than to Center street; Temple street, from the two churches on the Green, in front of which it ran; York street, from the name of the "Yorkshire quarter," given at the very beginning to that neighborhood where some leading immigrants from Yorkshire sat down; Elm street from the already patriarchal trees planted in 1686 in front of the Rev. Mr. Pierpont's dwelling and remaining almost to our day; and Court street, because it was intended that it should run across the Green past the Court House.

New Haven had already been described in print (Peters' History of Connecticut) as "the most beautiful town in New England"; and one special feature which contributed to this impression was the Green, usually called the market place, because the southern border was used for this purpose. Dr. Jedidiah Morse, however, states in the first edition of his American Geography (1789) that "the beauty of the public square is greatly diminished by the burial ground and several of the public buildings which occupy a considerable part of it."

Chief among these buildings was an elegant and commodious brick State House or County Court House, built in 1761-64 by the State and County jointly, and standing a little to the north of, and much nearer Temple street than the present Trinity church; it had both east and west doors, furnished with stone steps; the first floor was devoted to court rooms and offices, and the second to the use of the two houses of the General Assembly at its October sessions, while the third floor was an open hall. The judge of the County Court was Col. James Wadsworth, a graduate at Yale in 1748, of whose college days an interesting reminiscence is preserved in the plan which he drew of New Haven in his senior year and which was engraved in 1806.

Next to this building stood what was still the "New Brick" meeting-house of the First Church, built in 1753-57, measuring about seventy-five by fifty feet, and holding an average congregation of not much over nine hundred persons; it was on the site of the present Center Church, and was arranged internally in a corresponding way, with the pulpit toward the west, but it was as if the church now standing were shifted around sidewise, the north and south length being the greatest, and the bell-tower at the northern end. The minister was the Rev. Chauncey Whittelsey, now near the end of his life,

having reached the age of sixty-six, and having been settled for thirty-six years.

The earliest secession or separation from the common church of the whole town had been the society formed in consequence of the Whitefieldian revival, and after a long struggle finally recognized by authority of the General Assembly in 1759, and dubbed with the unaccountable name of the White Haven Society.\* Their wooden meeting-house, built in 1744 and much enlarged in 1764, measuring about sixty feet square, and called from its color the Blue Meeting-house, stood on the southeast corner of Elm and Church streets. The congregation worshipping there had dwindled from a much larger number than that of the parent society, to less than eight hundred hearers, under the dry preaching of that acute metaphysician, Jonathan Edwards, the younger, now aged thirty-nine, and for fifteen years their pastor.

The majority of those who had left Mr. Edwards's meeting, as much from dislike of his extreme "New Divinity" views as from his dull preaching, had formed a new congregation, called the Fair Haven Society, now the largest in town, or about one thousand persons, who worshiped in a house the size of the "New Brick," built of wood, in 1770, on the site of the present church of the United Society. Their minister was Mr. Allyn Mather, a young man of thirty-six, now in feeble health, and among the congregation was the Rev. Samuel Bird, Mr. Edwards's predecessor, and Mr. Mather's frequent substitute in the pulpit; both of them died within the year. It is one of the curious felicities of history that not only have these two divergent offshoots from the old First Church long ago come together in the United Society, but now they are preparing to absorb also another organization (the

\* May this name have been given with a covert reference to Whitefield?

Third Church) which represented in its origin an opposite extreme of theological belief.

The great majority of New Haven in 1784 was thus of one religious faith. But besides these societies of the Congregational order there was a small Episcopal society, not numbering much over two hundred members, which occupied what was distinctively known as "The Church," built in 1754-55, on Church Street, with the Rev. Bela Hubbard as rector, now forty-four years of age, and having been here for fourteen years; this was the smallest in size of any of the church buildings mentioned, somewhat less than sixty by forty feet.

Besides the Episcopalians there was a handful of Sandemanians, the most radical of "New-Light" sects, too much so for even Mr. Edwards to tolerate, who had held separate services for a dozen years or more; for a time they had had two elders or ministers in charge of their simple worship, but these leaders had sympathized (as did others of the flock) too plainly with Tory principles to remain here in the Revolution; and the remnant that was left had dwindled into insignificance. There were also one or two Jewish families, the first of which appeared here in 1772.

I have mentioned the chief buildings on the Green. There was, besides, a wooden jail, on College Street, built in 1735, with Stephen Munson, a college graduate, for jailor; but this dilapidated structure was replaced, late in the year 1784, by a new jail, built just across the street, under the eaves of the college. Adjacent to the jail on the south was the old County Court House, the upper floor of which had been used also as a State House for many years before the new one was built; in this building, or in a separate building near it, the Hopkins Grammar School, which was now in a very low condition, was kept by Mr. Richard Woodhull, a middle-aged man, of competent learning, whose career as a college tutor had been inter-

rupted many years before by his conversion to Sandemanianism, and whose attitude in the Revolution as a non-resistant and loyalist had interfered still further with his prospects. Besides this, there was a brick school-house on the Elm street side of the Green, north of and older than the Fair Haven meeting-house, and here youth of both sexes were taught.

Occupying a good part of the upper Green, which then sloped much more than now from west to east, on the sides and at the back of the Brick meeting-house, was the ancient burial-ground, of irregular shape, which had lately been inclosed by a rough board fence. This was, I suppose, the only fence on or about the whole Green, the rest being entirely open to the surrounding streets, and the more level lower Green especially being a common thoroughfare for all sorts of travel.

Two hundred and fifty buttonwood and elm trees, set out in 1759 around the Green, were now half grown; of these I take it that the solitary buttonwood, still standing opposite the First Methodist Church, is a survivor; the veteran elm at the southeast corner of the Green may be older, and a few others of our oldest elms may be relics of this planting. On the Green itself no trees were standing; but a single row of elms was placed, a year or two later, on the line of Temple street, in front of the State House and the churches.

Next in interest to the Green was the College which fronted upon it. The building originally named Yale College, which had stood in the front corner of the yard, had recently been torn down; and the three buildings which in 1784 represented the College are all now standing, though greatly transformed. The oldest, Connecticut Hall, or South Middle, built in 1750-51, instead of being the four-storied structure which it is to-day, had but three stories with a gambrel roof, and lodged about one-third of the students; what is now the Athenæum,

built in 1761-63, was of three stories, with steeple and bell, and contained the chapel, library, and apparatus-room; and in the rear was the new dining-hall, built in 1782, later the chemical laboratory. Besides these there were the President's house, built of wood in 1722, and an elegant mansion for that date, standing a little north of the present College street Church; and the Professor of Divinity's house, also belonging to the College, on York street, on the ground now appropriated to the Medical School.

The President was Dr. Ezra Stiles, one of the most learned Americans of his generation, now 56 years of age, having been six years in office; while the Professor of Divinity, or College pastor, and at the same time lecturer on theological topics, was the Rev. Samuel Wales, a young man of 36, installed only two years before, and now at the height of his usefulness, his remarkable power as a preacher as yet unaffected by the insidious disease which soon ended his career.

There were enrolled as students during the current term (Nov. 12-Jan. 13), the first term of the College year, 260 undergraduates, twenty-five per cent. more than in any other American college; but the great irregularity of attendance which was then common reduced the number actually present to less than 225. The Junior class was instructed by Tutor Josiah Meigs, and the Sophomores by Tutor Matthew Talcott Russell, while the Freshman class was so unusually large as to be divided under the care of the two youngest tutors, Simeon Baldwin and Henry Channing. The other officers were, James Hillhouse, a young lawyer, treasurer, and Jeremiah Atwater, steward.

I have thus named all that can be called public buildings in the town; certainly there was no bank,—that luxury did not come till 1792; no post-office,—the infrequent mails were handled in a corner of a small country-store; no almshouse,—

for was it not voted, at the town-meeting in March, 1782, "That the selectmen vendue [that is, farm out at auction] the poor of the town which are now supported by the town so that they may be supported in the cheapest manner;" no hospital except the town pest-house on Grapevine Point, for the inoculation and treatment of small-pox, then so formidable; and no public library, though this is less a wonder, since it is also true of New Haven in 1884.

Turning to the classes which made up society, besides the professional men already mentioned, there were eight or nine lawyers in active practice; but the very recent growth of that profession in importance and public favor, and the losses it had suffered through loyalty to the British crown, are shown by the fact that the senior member of the bar was Charles Chauncey, only thirty-six years of age, while the leader of the profession in brilliancy was Pierpont Edwards, two years younger, whose annual income of \$2000 was said a little later to be the largest earned by any lawyer in the State.

The medical profession had also eight or nine representatives in what became the city,—the leading physician, alike in reputed skill and in social status, being Dr. Leverett Hubbard, President of the County Medical Society which was founded this same month, who lived in his new stone dwelling still standing at the junction of George and Meadow streets. Dr. John Spalding, after his removal here in the spring of 1784, was considered the leading surgeon.

As for the business of the city, there was the usual provision for domestic trading common to a place of this size. A statistical enumeration gives fifty-six shops, half a dozen of which carried from two to three thousand pounds (sterling) worth of goods, and the rest from £500 to £150 worth. What afterwards became the leading retail house of Broome & Platt was not removed here from New York till September, 1784;

Shipman, Drake, Howell, Perit, Helms, Austin, are among the other leading names. There were no local manufactures,—the long course of British rule had thoroughly stamped out everything of that sort; the utmost that was done was the ordinary spinning and weaving for domestic use, and a little ironworking and papermaking.

In one direction, however, there was activity. New Haven, in fulfillment of the dream of its founders and of all the early generations, was already of importance as a sea-port; it had in operation extensive oyster-fisheries; it had its Union Wharf and Long Wharf, though not so long as now; already, since the announcement of peace, vessels had begun to sail direct for England and Ireland, though the main stay was commerce with the West Indies, so far as they were open to us, in the export of horses, oxen, pork, beef, and lumber, with return cargoes of sugar and molasses. In 1784 thirty-six American vessels, with one British ship and one Danish, are recorded as entering this port, while thirty-three sea-going vessels were owned here, all engaged in foreign and West-India trade, as against forty that were owned just before the war began in 1775; at the close of warlike operations in 1781, this number had dwindled to one solitary vessel, so that the return of prosperity had been rapid in this branch; most of those now owned were built here or in the immediate neighborhood. There was at least one line of packets carrying both passengers and freight to New York weekly during the open season; and another weekly line running to New London and Norwich. The collector of customs for the United States Government was Jonathan Fitch, a son of Governor Fitch, of Norwalk, and a Yale graduate, who had married early a step-daughter of President Clap and had served for a generation before the war as steward of the college.

The central government was also represented by the post-



master, Elias Beers, whose office was next the store of his elder brother, Isaac Beers, on the College street side of the corner now occupied by the New Haven House. Post-riders took letters twice (or in severe weather, once) a week to New York, doing a large commission business, to the benefit of their own pockets, by the way. The return mails from New York divided at New Haven, one going each week *via* New London and Providence to Boston, the other taking the inland route to the same destination by Hartford and Springfield, and by each route there was a return mail weekly; the branching of the post-routes at this point into two eastward routes, as to this day of the railroads, is of course a reminder of the historical position of New Haven as the first settlement on the direct road between New York and Boston, and thus from the first the point to which all travel for New York from the eastward converged.

A stage for Hartford and Springfield left here every Wednesday; and another left on Saturday, which connected at Hartford with one leaving for Boston on Monday morning, which going by the most direct route (Somers, Brookfield, and Worcester) did not reach the journey's end until Thursday evening; the post-riders, however, moved more rapidly than this.

The New Haven post-office was the receiving-office for all the inland region not served by the Hartford, New York, and New London offices; thus, not only all letters for such near points as Cheshire, Wallingford, and Waterbury, but all for towns as far off as Litchfield and New Milford were left here, to be delivered to any one bound for those parts; if not soon called for, they were advertised in the New Haven newspaper, and after three months from that date, were sent to the Dead Letter department of the General post-office at Philadelphia, which was in charge of Ebenezer Hazard, Postmaster-General.

The post-office adjoined Isaac Beers's store; and this introduces us to what was, after the College, the intellectual center (in a sense) of New Haven. The store was a part of the proprietor's house, which was also an inn, and he sold—besides books—general groceries, and the best of gin and brandy. Of books he was, I think, one of the largest direct importers in the United States; and very remarkable are the lists of his latest acquisitions which he publishes now and then in the weekly newspaper, covering sometimes an entire page.

Besides this, there was at least one other general book-store, of less pretensions, that of Daggett and Fitch; and one specially devoted to school-books, kept by Abel Morse, the teacher of a select school for girls; Goodrich and Darling, druggists, also dealt in books. The office of Thomas and Samuel Green, who printed the newspaper and such pamphlets as the divines and politicians of the neighborhood furnished for publication, was over Elias Shipman's store, which was directly opposite the post-office, on College and Chapel streets, the site of Townsend's Block; but they, I suppose, sold little but their own publications.

The newspaper was the Connecticut Journal, begun by the same publishers in 1767, and continuing under various proprietors until 1835. It appeared every Wednesday on a sheet of four pages, about fourteen by nine or ten inches in size, and was poorly edited, even for that day; so that we may not wonder that an early evidence of progress in the new city should have been the establishment, in May, 1784, of a second paper, the New Haven Gazette, price eight shillings a year, to edit which Josiah Meigs resigned his College tutorship.

In connection with the local publishing business may be mentioned the name of Abel Buell, the ingenious mechanic,—at various times in his life, engraver, type-founder, coiner, and goldsmith,—who advertises in March, 1784, a map of the

United States, the first ever compiled, engraved, and finished by one hand; and also the name of Amos Doolittle, the earliest copper-plate engraver in America, whose shop for sign-painting and the higher branches of his art was on the present College square, fronting the Green.

Passing to the political and social condition of the city, we are to remember that the whole country had just come out of an exhausting war; and New Haven had suffered her full share, much beyond the most of New England. A sermon just preached by the Rev. Benjamin Trumbull, of North Haven, at the celebration on the news of the Definitive Treaty of Peace, estimates the loss of New Haven in soldiers and seamen on the American side during the war at 210; and the loss of property by the raid of the British troops on this town was reckoned at over £30,800, in a depreciated currency.

But peace was now secured, and the general sentiment among the leaders of opinion in the town was hopeful of brighter days than ever; although the town taxes were fourpence on the pound, or nearly two cents on the dollar, double the usual rate before the war, and this high figure was supplemented moreover by state taxes of three shillings and twopence (sixteen cents on the dollar).

The fullest picture of our modern daily life is the newspaper; but for 1784 *The Connecticut Journal* is a poor help. It is guiltless of anything so direct as an editorial, and almost equally guiltless of contributions from correspondents; the local editor and the interviewer are alike unknown. In other words, the entire paper is made up of selections from other sheets, of foreign news (usually about ten weeks old), of very scanty items from New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and a few other prominent places, and of advertisements. The selections bear largely at this date on the novel situation of the United States, just formally acknowledged as independent. They

feed the popular interest in subjects which we know were under discussion elsewhere,—such as, preëminently, the approval or non-approval of the so-called Commutation Bill, recently passed by the Congress of the Confederation, for commuting the half-pay for life, previously voted to Revolutionary officers and soldiers, into five years' full pay in one gross sum; the change was really a shrewd piece of economy for the government, and yet was most unpopular, especially in New England; a convention met at Middletown, in December, 1783, to record Connecticut's dissent from such a creation of a moneyed aristocracy.

Another timely subject, of far-reaching consequences, was the question of giving Congress the right to levy moderate import duties on specified articles, for meeting the interest on the public debt; the principle of Federal government was involved; approval of the impost meant adhesion to the theory of a strong central government as necessary, while disapproval was a preference for the existing Confederation, already on its downward career to powerlessness and contempt.

In these twin disputes, the Connecticut Legislature committed itself to the policy of narrowness and conservatism by resolving in 1783 that the requisitions of Congress were not valid until after the approval of the State; and in January, 1784, they voted down (69 to 37) the impost recommended by Congress, the New Haven representative voting with the majority. At the next election, however, the people repudiated the action of their deputies; and Pierpont Edwards and James Hillhouse, of New Haven, concurred with the great majority of the new General Assembly in granting Congress the desired authority to raise this slender revenue.

The current advertisements show the great confusion of the time in respect to financial standards. Goods are on sale for cash, for bank notes, for Morris's notes, Mr. Hillegas' notes,

Pickering's certificates, soldiers' notes, State money, all kinds of lumber, grain, oxen, cows, potash, country produce, etc., etc. Bank notes were the issues of the bank at Philadelphia, the only institution of the kind in the Union; Morris's notes were the issues of treasury-notes by Robert Morris, superintendent of finance of the United States; Hillegas was the treasurer of Congress, and Pickering was Quartermaster-General; soldiers' notes were the interest-bearing certificates entitling the army to their half-pay for life, or to full pay for five years; and State money meant the outstanding bills of credit or paper money issued in the early years of the war by the State government, at convenient denominations, from two pence to two pounds. By cash was meant at that date, before Gouverneur Morris's system of decimal currency (which we now use) had been adopted by Congress, and a mint set up, a miscellaneous foreign coinage, mainly English and Spanish, with a few coppers of local origin; it was through familiarity with the Spanish currency, that the term dollar was already in general use.

Socially, the characteristics of New Haven were much the same as throughout New England. The population was still of pure English descent, and a homely familiarity of intercourse prevailed; while the adventuring spirit of commercial life, traversing the seas, tended to widen views, and the presence of the College was felt as a cultivating influence, bringing hither a constant succession of intelligent and famous visitors. The specially cold winter of 1783-4 was not a favorable season for travel, but President Stiles's diary records the entertainment, among others, of Major General John Sullivan, of New Hampshire, of Mr. Gay, a son of the poet, of Ira Allen, a brother of Ethan Allen, and one of the founders of Vermont, and of John Ledyard, the distinguished traveler.

I have not time to dwell on details of the social life of a

century ago : if it was not the hurried and feverish life of the present, no more was it the ascetic and constrained life of a century earlier ; there was abundance of gaiety of a simple sort ; and the shopkeepers publish prompt advertisements of the arrival of fresh invoices of " gentlemen and ladies' dancing-gloves for the City Assembly," of " chip-hats of the newest taste," of " new figured, fashionable cotton chintz and calicoes, proper for ladies' winter dress," of " elegant figured shauls," of " ladies' tiffany balloon hats," and so on *ad infinitum*,—showing that human nature had the same kind of interest then as now.

As one part of their social life, we must remember this as the time when domestic slavery was general in New Haven. The importing of slaves was forbidden since 1774, but the papers have occasional, not frequent advertisements for the sale of likely negroes, or it may be a family of negroes, in respect to whom " a good title will be given ;" sometimes it is for a term of years (perhaps till the attainment of legal majority, when by the will of some former owner freedom was to be given), and sometimes it is noted that, in the lack of ready money, rum and sugar will be taken in part payment. The relations of masters and slaves were in most cases here the best possible ; yet sensible men were uneasy under the inconsistency of the system, and President Stiles writes in his diary, in December, 1783 : " The constant annual importation of negroes into America and the West Indies is supposed to have been of late years about 60,000. Is it possible to think of this without horror ?"

I pass on to the special circumstances which made New Haven a city.

The origin of the movement it may be difficult to trace. Certainly we cannot adopt the earliest date that has been assigned for such an origin ; for that would commit us to the

acceptance of a statement by the notoriously inaccurate Samuel Peters, who in giving in his *History of Connecticut* (1781) the story of the Phantom Ship, which sailed from this port in 1647, says that she carried a request for a patent for the colony and for a charter for the city of New Haven; this part of his tale is a pure fabrication.

The first step which I can fix in the genealogy of the charter is a vote in town-meeting, December 9, 1771, in these words: "Whereas a motion was made to the town that this town might have the privileges of a city, and that proper measures might be taken to obtain the same, it is thereupon Voted that Roger Sherman" [and seventeen others] "be a Committee to take the same into consideration and judge of the motion what is best for the town to do with regard to the same and report thereupon to the town at another town-meeting." This committee never reported, so far as the records show, nor do the public prints of the day refer to the matter. Roger Sherman, the chairman, then fifty years old, and for ten years a resident of New Haven, was already eminent in the regards of his fellow-townsmen, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and a member of the Governor's Council, or Upper House of the Assembly, though still keeping a small country-store opposite the College on Chapel street.

Ten years passed without further sign, until in December, 1781, the town was obliged to take cognizance of efforts which had lately been gathering strength, for the creation of new towns from the more distant parts of New Haven. At a town-meeting of this date, a committee was therefore appointed to report a plan for the division of the town into several distinct townships; and this committee reported the same month in favor of setting off the portions which afterwards became Woodbridge, East Haven, and North Haven. These towns were not in fact incorporated until after the city of

New Haven; but the one movement was a complement of the other.

At the close of the Revolution the two most prosperous centers of population in this country were Philadelphia, with nearly 30,000 inhabitants, and New York, with a little under 25,000. Both were cities: New York having received a charter from James II. in 1686, during the spasm of liberal zeal which marked the beginning of his reign; and Philadelphia having been similarly endowed in 1701 by the proprietor of Pennsylvania, the ardent friend and quondam political mentor of James II. Besides these, I do not recall any other incorporated cities in the Union at this date, except Albany, which was chartered at the same time and under the same circumstances as New York, but was now of less population than New Haven, and Richmond, incorporated in 1782, but only a small village in point of numbers.

The prosperity and size of Philadelphia and New York were, however, objects of emulation; and there is some evidence that it was from an ambition of rivaling their prominence, that a charter was desired for New Haven. This may have been especially in view of the long occupation of New York by the British, and a consequent interruption of the previous dependence of our dealers on New York merchants for imports from England and for the return of remittances thither; New York had just been evacuated, and might not the two places begin new careers more on an equality, if New Haven were elevated to the dignity of a city?

To recur to President Stiles's diary, we have this entry on October 20, 1783: "Sign'd a petition to the Assembly for incorporating New Haven as a city." The Assembly was then holding its regular fall session in New Haven, and so continued until November 1, when it adjourned to meet again in January in a special session, for the purpose of revising the laws of



the State. The October session was made memorable by the announcement of Governor Trumbull's determination to retire from public life at the next election, on account of his advanced age (73).

The petition referred to by Dr. Stiles is on file (with 214 signatures) in the State Library. It bases the desired action on the hindrances to an extension of commerce, which "arise for want of a due regulation of the internal police" of the town. Specifically, "it is matter of no small importance that wharves, streets and highways, be commodious for business, and kept continually in good repair;" and such a result cannot be attained, unless the memorialists have a jurisdiction of their own. Hence the petition, that the inhabitants within specified limits "be made a corporation," with power to enact by-laws, and that a Court be constituted for the same jurisdiction. A bill brought in in accordance with this petition was passed at the same session by the Upper House; but the Lower House insisted that it be referred to the adjourned session for their consideration, and it was so referred.

On the 21st of November, Dr. Stiles writes: "Examining the Act or Charter proposed for the City of New Haven." This interval of examination resulted in making the final draft of the charter quite different in details from that presented in October.

The Assembly was to meet in New Haven on Thursday, January 8, 1784; and on Monday, January 5, at a town-meeting, with Roger Sherman in the chair, a resolution was passed, "requesting the representatives in the Assembly," who were Captain Henry Daggett and Captain Jesse Ford, "to exert themselves that the Act for incorporating a part of the town be passed with all convenient speed."

Owing to unusually bad traveling, the adjourned session did not open until Tuesday, January 13. The presiding officer

of the Upper House was His Excellency Governor Jonathan Trumbull, of Lebanon, who, as was his custom, lodged at the house of President Stiles; while the Speaker of the Lower House was the Hon. Colonel William Williams, also of Lebanon, well known as a signer of the Declaration of 1776.

As usual, all Acts passed by the Assembly are dated as of the first day of the session, and as usual the weekly newspapers give none of the interesting details of legislative proceedings; so that it is only from the unprinted pages of Dr. Stiles's Literary Diary that we gain the exact knowledge of the day when the charter was finally passed.

The next week's Connecticut Journal, however, contains the notification of the first meeting of the city, to be held on February 10; and in the Journal of February 4 appears an advertisement by the selectmen of the town, announcing that, in accordance with a paragraph in the act of incorporation of the city, an opportunity will be given on Thursday, February 5, for any who are qualified to become freemen of the State, but have not yet taken the freeman's oath, to appear and be admitted, so as to participate in the first city election.

On the day appointed, Dr. Stiles was among those taking the oath; and he records that the total number in the city who are qualified to become freemen, as now certified by the selectmen, is three hundred and forty-three, of whom fifty-five (about one-sixth) are college graduates; eighty-two of the three hundred and forty-three (about one-fourth) have not taken the freeman's oath,—some being absent, some disabled, some indifferent. The full list, which he appends, is of great interest, and might instructively be compared, on the one hand, with the roll of original planters, in 1640, and on the other hand with the roll of our voters to-day. In 1784 the families most largely represented in the voting population were, Austin (a name introduced in the generation after the settlement, not

among the first-comers) and Trowbridge, the name which has multiplied beyond any other in the original company; next followed Atwater, Bishop, Hotchkiss, Munson, Bradley, Mix, Thompson, and Townsend.

Dr. Stiles further judges that there were about six hundred adult males living within the city limits, showing that nearly every other man was disfranchised, either by the operation of the qualification limiting suffrage to those holding real estate which would yield a rental of £2 *per annum*, or personal estate worth £40, or else disfranchised by their loyalty to Great Britain in the late war.

The election of city officers was appointed for February 10; and as the General Assembly was still in session, the third story of the State House was the place of meeting. Of the 261 freemen who had qualified, over 250, says Dr. Stiles, attended at the opening of the polls, but only 249 votes were recorded on the first ballot, that for mayor; of these just the number necessary for a choice, 125, were cast for Roger Sherman, 102 for Deacon Thomas Howell, and 22 for Thomas Darling.

Mr. Sherman was now in his 63d year, and was unquestionably the most distinguished resident of the new city. That he did not carry a larger vote may have been due to his personal characteristics; that aristocratic, chilling reserve of manner which his juniors have reported of him, may well have stood in the way of popularity. Moreover, there were undercurrents of feeling, as we shall see, that would have prevented a cordial uniting on any one. It is an evidence of Mr. Sherman's acknowledged merits that at the time of this election he was absent, in Annapolis, where he had been for a month in attendance as a member of Congress, which had migrated southwards, pending the expected establishment of a capital near the falls of the Potomac.

Sherman's chief competitor for the mayoralty, Deacon Howell of the First Church, now in his 65th year, was chosen Senior Alderman, and thus in the Mayor's absence became the active head of the government; it is remarkable that neither of the two was of old New Haven stock, Sherman being a native of Massachusetts, and Howell's father having immigrated from Long Island.

The other aldermen were Samuel Bishop, previously identified with the town-clerk's office for forty years, and brought into wide notoriety at the end of his long life as President Jefferson's appointee to the collectorship of the port; Deacon David Austin, of the White Haven Church; and Isaac Beers, the bookseller. The interest in the election of twenty common councilmen, which was not completed till the third day, dwindled so rapidly that the total number of votes for the last places was only about one hundred. At the conclusion of the election (February 12) all the new officials except the absent mayor were sworn in, and the city government was finally organized.

Dr. Stiles's valuable diary gives an inside view of the election, under date of February 13, when he says: "The city politics are founded in an endeavor silently to bring Tories into an equality and supremacy among the Whigs. The Episcopalians are all Tories but two, and all qualified on this occasion, though despising Congress government before; they may perhaps be forty voters. There may be twenty or thirty of Mr. Whittelsey's meeting added to these. Perhaps one-third of the citizens," that is, I suppose, one-third of the 261 who had taken the freeman's oath, "may be hearty Tories, one-third Whigs, and one-third indifferent. Mixing all up together, the election has come out, Mayor and two Aldermen, Whigs; two Aldermen, Tories. Of the Common Council, five Whigs, five flexibles but in heart Whigs, eight Tories.

The two Sheriffs," Elias Stilwell and Parsons Clark, "and Treasurer," Hezekiah Sabin, "Whigs; the first Sheriff firm, the other flexible."

From these hints it would appear that the so-called "Tory" element had been concerned in the entire movement for a charter. I may add that at a meeting held on March 8, on the motion of Pierpont Edwards, a committee of eight was appointed, "to consider of the propriety and expediency of admitting as inhabitants of this town persons who in the course of the late war have adhered to the cause of Great Britain against these United States, and are of fair characters, and will be good and useful members of society and faithful citizens of this State." In their report, made the same day, this committee deduced from the independence of the several States and the spirit of peace and philanthropy displayed in the "Recommendations" of Congress based on the treaty of peace, that it was in point of law proper to admit such as are above described, but not any who were guilty of unauthorized plundering and murder. As for expediency, they suggested that no nation is truly great unless it is also distinguished for justice and magnanimity; and argued that it would be magnanimous to restore these persons, and especially that the commercial future of New Haven made it desirable thus to increase its inhabitants. The report was at once accepted and approved by the town. Such an ardent patriot as Dr. Stiles dismisses the unpalatable theme with this curt entry in his diary: "This day town-meeting voted to re-admit the Tories."

The question of the treatment of the loyalists had for months previous been under heated discussion all over the Union; and not least in New Haven, where the argument was strongly urged that a sound commercial policy dictated the invitation hither of some of the numerous gentlemen of large

property and influential connections in business, who had been dislodged from their homes and would gladly begin life anew among a congenial people. Attempts had been made to mould public opinion by newspaper appeals ; and twice or thrice with special ingenuity by printing extracts from letters said to have been received from friends in Europe ; one such, for instance, in the Journal of January 7, represented that Dr. Franklin and Mr. Jay, now abroad for the negotiation of peace, were much hurt at the harsh measures adopted toward loyalists. By such means and by more direct arguments, the way was quietly prepared for a popular amnesty, which was thus voted in March, 1784, just a year after a former town-meeting, when the New Haven representatives were solemnly instructed by their constituents "to use their influence with the next General Assembly in an especial manner, to prevent the return of any of those miscreants who have deserted their country's cause and joined the enemies of this and the United States of America, during their late contest :"—a striking instance of rapid conversion.

I add before closing a reference to two peculiar provisions of the charter. It was enacted that the mayor's tenure of office should be "during the pleasure of the General Assembly," which was equivalent to a life appointment, and so proved in practice ; for Mayor Sherman retained the position until his death in 1793, when Samuel Bishop succeeded, continuing till his death in 1803 ; the third incumbent, Elizur Goodrich, held office till his resignation in 1822, and his successor, George Hoadly, till his resignation in 1826, when by vote of the city a request was preferred to the Assembly, which resulted in the substitution of an annual election.

Another provision of the charter which needs comment is the proclamation that power is conferred on the city to exchange the upper part of the Green, west of the line of the

churches, for other land, for highways, or another green elsewhere. I do not know that any exchange was ever proposed or attempted; but the insertion in the charter of express authority for the purpose, was perhaps meant to intimate that the city had the State government at its back in asserting authority over the public green, as against the claims preferred by the "Proprietors of Common and Undivided Lands in New Haven."\*

The city government thus organized was immediately put into operation. The example was contagious; New London asked for and received a city charter at the same session of the legislature, and Hartford, Norwich, and Middletown, at the succeeding one. It was the era of upbuilding and of preparation,—they hardly knew for what; yet we may doubt if in their proudest dreams the citizens of 1784 anticipated the growth which has come to pass. Certainly we know that public sentiment had been incredulous, when Dr. Stiles in the last election sermon had announced it "probable that within a century from our independence the sun will shine on fifty millions of inhabitants in the United States." But the century has gone by; and the prophecy has very little exceeded the truth. We can at least learn the lesson, not to underrate the progress which is possible in the century to come, knowing that the present is as full of fruit and of promise as the past, and that the resistless tide of time which sweeps down individuals and generations in its "ceaseless current," only enlarges and deepens the hold of institutions which subserve useful ends and are wisely and justly administered.

\* As an instance of these claims it may be mentioned that the location of the Fair Haven meeting-house (represented at present by the United Church) on the Green in 1770 was by a vote of the "Proprietors."

CHARTER  
OF THE  
CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

GRANTED IN 1784.





## An Act for incorporating a Part of the Town of *New-Haven*.

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*BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same,* That all Freemen of this State, Inhabitants of said New Haven, dwelling and inhabiting within the following Bounds, viz. Beginning at the North-East Corner of the Long-Bridge (so called) in said *New-Haven*, and running on the North-Side of said Bridge and the Highway, so as to take in said Bridge and Highway to the North-East Corner of the Neck-Bridge; then a-cross the same on the North-Side of the same to the North-West Corner of said Bridge; then in a direct line Westward to the Bridge a-cross the West-River, commonly called *Thompson's-Bridge*, to the North-East Corner of said Bridge; thence down the said West-River, on the East Bank thereof, to the Mouth of said River; and from thence a straight Line to the extreme Point of the Land commonly called Five-Mile Point, on the East-Side of *New-Haven* Harbour at High-Water Mark on said Point; thence Northward on the Shore, on the Line of High-Water Mark, up to the Point, where the Waters of the Little-River and the greater Waters, being Part of the East-River, fall into each other; thence across the Mouth of said Little-River to the East-Shore of the East-River; then up said East-River

Description of  
the persons that  
are incorpora-  
ted.

Bounds of the  
city.

Name of the  
corporation.

Capable of su-  
ing, &c.

Who are free-  
men of the city.

Persons living  
within the city,  
procuring a cer-  
tificate, &c. to  
be freemen of  
the state and  
city.

Annual meeting  
to be in June,  
for the purpose  
of chusing an-  
nual officers.

on the Line of High-Water Mark to the first mentioned Point at the North-East Corner of the Long-Bridge; be, and same are hereby Ordained, Constituted, and Declared to be from Time to Time, and forever hereafter, one Body Corporate and Politic, in Fact, and in Name, by the Name of, THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, COMMON COUNCIL, AND FREEMEN OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN; and that by that Name, they and their Successors for ever, shall and may have perpetual Succession; and shall be Persons in Law, capable of Suing and being Sued, Pleading and being Impleaded in all Suits of what Nature soever; and also to purchase, hold, and convey any Estate, real or personal, and may have a common Seal, and may change and alter the same at Pleasure; and shall be Freemen of said City.

*And whereas there are many Persons living within said Limits, who by Law are qualified to be Freemen of this State, that have not taken the Oath provided by Law to be taken by Freemen.*

*Be it enacted*, That all such Persons, living within said Limits, who shall, before the second Monday of *February* next, procure the major Part of the Select-men of the said Town of *New-Haven*, to certify that they are qualified to be admitted and made free of this State, and shall after procuring such Certificate, take before some Assistant of this State, or Justice of Peace within and for the County of *New-Haven*, the Oaths provided by Law for Freemen, shall to all the Purposes in this Act mentioned, be considered as Freemen of this State, and Freemen of the said City of *New-Haven*.

*And for the better Government of said City :*

*Be it further Enacted*, That there shall be a Meeting of said City holden annually in *June*, at such Time and Place as by the Bye-Laws of said City shall be directed, for the Purpose of chusing all the annual Officers of said City ; and

the annual Officers of said City chosen at such Meeting, shall continue in Office until the Expiration of the month of *June* then next, unless others shall be sooner chosen and qualified in their Stead.

Continuance in office.

And the said City in legal Meeting assembled, shall chuse a Mayor, who shall hold his Office during the Pleasure of the General Assembly; and at their annual Meeting shall chuse four Aldermen, and a Common Council of not more than Twenty, and two Sheriffs out of the Freemen of said City; all which Officers, and all other Officers of said City, eligible by the Freemen thereof (the Inspectors of Produce excepted), shall be chosen by Ballot; and on each Ballot which is given in, shall be written the Name of the Person for whom the same is given; and such Ballot shall be rolled up, and in the Presence of the Mayor and Aldermen of said City, or such of them as are present at such Meeting, put, by the person giving the same, into a Box, which said City shall provide for that Purpose; which Box shall be a close Box, with a Hole of convenient Size in the Lid thereof, through which to put in the Ballot. And when the Freemen present at any City Meeting, shall have had reasonable Time to give in their Ballot, either of the Sheriffs of said City, or in the Absence of both the Sheriffs, the junior Alderman present, in the Presence of the Mayor and Aldermen, or such of them as are present at such Meeting, shall open the said Box; and the Mayor and Aldermen or such of them as are present, shall open, sort and count the Ballots; and the Person who shall have the Majority of the Ballots given in, shall by the Sheriffs, or in their Absence, by the junior Alderman present, be declared to be elected; And no Ballots shall be received after the Box shall have been opened.

To chuse a mayor, to continue in office during, &c. To chuse four aldermen, &c. Mode of chusing to be by ballot, &c.

The box by whom opened.

The mayor & aldermen to sort and count the votes.

Who to declare the choice.

And said City in legal Meeting assembled, shall have Power to Levy Taxes on the Polls and Estate within the Limits of said City, for such Purposes as said City shall think proper;

The city to have power to levy taxes.

To chuse a collector.  
Warrant by whom signed.

and to chuse a Collector or Collectors, to collect such Tax ; who shall, having received a Warrant for that Purpose, signed by the Mayor, or by one of the Aldermen of said City, have the same power as Collectors of Town Taxes by Law have ; and shall be accountable to the Mayor and Aldermen of said City, in the same Manner as Collectors of Town Taxes are

Collectors accountable & to whom.

by Law accountable to the Select-men. And in Case any Collector shall not perform the Trust committed to him, but shall fail of collecting such Rate according to the Terms of the Warrant committed to him, on Complaint thereof made by the Aldermen of said City to the Mayor thereof, he shall issue a Warrant under his Hand, directed to either of the Sheriffs of said City, to deftrain the Sums or Rates neglected by such Collector to be collected, or paid, out of the Estate of the Collector.

Complaint being made, &c. mayor to issue his warrant, &c.

Power of the sheriffs.

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That the Sheriffs of said City shall severally within the Limits of said City, have the same Power and Authorities, and be liable to the same Suits or Penalties for neglect of Duty in any Case whatever, to all Intents and Purposes, as Sheriffs by Law now have and are ; and the said City shall be liable to answer in case of the Inability of said Sheriffs, or either of them, for the Default of said Sheriffs, in all Cases relative to their Office.

Liab. for neglect of duty.

City to answer in case of inability, &c.

Sheriffs to give bond, &c.

And said Sheriffs shall severally give Bond with Sureties, in such Manner as by the Bye-Laws of said City shall be directed, for a faithful Discharge of the Duties of that Office, before they shall be capable of executing the same. And in case either of the Persons chosen Sheriff shall not give Bond with Sureties, according to the Bye-Laws of said City, the said City may proceed to chuse another Sheriff in his Room.

On failure, a new one to be chosen.

To chuse a treasurer.

And the said City in legal Meeting assembled, shall chuse a Treasurer for said City, to continue in Office during the Pleasure of said City, who shall have the same Powers within

faid City as Town-Treasurers now by Law have, and shall be accountable to faid City.

*And be it further Enacted,* That there shall be holden monthly, on the second Tuesday of every Month, in faid City, a City Court; which Court shall have Power to adjourn from Time to Time, and shall have cognizance of all Civil Causes where the Title of Land is not concerned, by Law cognizable by the County Courts in this State, provided the Cause of Action arise within the Limits of faid City, and one or both the Parties live within faid City; and the faid City Court shall, as to the Causes by them Cognizable, to all Intents and Purposes, have the same Powers and Authorities, and proceed in the same Manner and grant Executions, as faid County Courts now or hereafter by Law shall have, proceed and grant; and the Executions granted by faid City Court shall be served and returned in the same Manner as the Executions granted by the faid County Courts, and Appeals shall be allowed to either Party, from the Judgment or Determination of faid City Court, to the next Superior Court to be holden in the County of *New-Haven*, in all Causes in which an Appeal is now or hereafter by Law shall be allowed from the faid County Courts; the prevailing Party, however, if Plaintiff, may, such Appeal notwithstanding, take out Execution on such Judgment for the Debt or Damages and Cost recovered in such City Court, against the Defendant or Defendants, and levy the said Execution, and collect the Money thereon; provided he does previous to his taking out faid Execution, become bound with two sufficient Sureties before the Mayor of faid City, or one of the Judges of faid City Court, in a Recognizance (which Recognizance the Mayor of faid City and the Judges of faid City Court are respectively empowered to take) in double the Sum of faid Judgment, that he will, within one Week after final Judgment on the Appeal, refund so much of the Judgment of the faid City

A city court to be held monthly. Power to adjourn. Jurisdiction.

To have the same powers, &c. as county courts, & executions served, &c. as those from the county court.

Appeals to be allowed.

The prevailing party if, &c. may take out execution, &c.

Provided bond be given.

Court, together with the Interest thereof, as shall on such Execution be collected, and shall not be by him recovered before the Court to which the Appeal is taken, together with the Execution Fees that shall accrue, and be paid by the Defendant on said Execution; and no Appeal shall be allowed on any Suit commenced on such Recognizance.

No appeal to be allowed on a suit on such bond.

And in every Action brought before said City Court, in which the Plaintiff lives without the Limits of said City, or is a Mariner or Seaman suing for Wages due to him for Services in his Occupation, and the Defendant lives within the Limits of said City, no Appeal shall be allowed the Defendant, unless the Matter in Demand exceed the Sum of Fifty Pounds lawful Money: but if the Matter in Demand exceed said Sum, an Appeal shall be allowed the Defendant in the same Manner and under the same Regulations as Appeals are allowable in other Causes cognizable by said City Court. And no Writ of Error brought upon any Judgment of said City Court shall be a *Superfedeas*.

If the plaintiff lives without the city, no appeal allowed the defendant within, unless, &c.

And said City Court shall have full Power to appoint and swear a Clerk for said Court, to continue in Office during the Pleasure of said Court, which clerk shall, as to all Matters relative to his Office as Clerk of said Court, have the same Powers and Authorities, to all Intents and Purposes, as the Clerks of the County Courts in this State by Law have; and the Oath to be taken by the said Clerk shall be the same, *mutatis mutandis*, provided by Law; to be taken by the Clerks of the said County Courts of this State.

City courts to appoint and swear a clerk.

His powers.

And the Mayor of said City, or in his Absence, the senior assistant Judge of said City Court, may, at the special Instance of, and Cost of any person moving therefor, hold a special City Court, at such Time and Place within said City, as the Mayor or Judge ordering the same shall appoint; which Court shall proceed in the same Manner, have the same Powers and Authorities, and in all Respects be under

The mayor, or in his absence the senior assistant judge may call a special court.

the same Regulations as the stated City Courts of said City; Fees.  
and all the taxable Fees of said City Court shall be the same  
as the taxable Fees of the County Courts of this State.

*And be it further enacted,* That the Mayor of said City Mayor & two  
aldermen first  
chosen to be the  
judges.  
for the Time being, and the two Aldermen first chosen at the  
*annual* Meeting of said City, or at their first Meeting, shall  
compose the said City Court, and be the Judges thereof; and  
the Mayor shall be the chief Judge of said Court, and the  
said two Aldermen shall be the Assistant Judges of said Court,  
any two of whom, in the Absence of the other, taking to  
their Assistance the senior Alderman present that is not a  
Judge of said Court, or if neither of the Aldermen that are  
not Judges of said Court can attend, one of the Justices of  
the Peace within and for the County of *New-Haven*, resi-  
dent within said City shall have Power to hold a City Court.

Who to be  
judges, in case  
of absence, &c.

And if at any City Court there shall be but one Judge If but one judge  
present then to  
take, &c.  
present, he shall take to his Assistance the other two Alder-  
men of said City, and in case one or both of them cannot  
attend, he shall take one or two of the Justices of the Peace,  
as the Case may require, of the County of *New-Haven*,  
resident within the said City, and they three shall have the  
same Power to hold a City Court, as the Judges of said City  
Court have.

*And be it further enacted,* That the Mayor and Alder- Mayor and  
aldermen to  
have cogni-  
zance of civil  
causes in the  
city.  
men of said City, shall severally, within the Limits of said  
City, have Cognizance of all civil Causes by Law cognizable  
by a Justice of the Peace, Provided the cause of Action arise  
within the Limits of said City, and one or both the Parties  
live within the same: And the said Mayor and Aldermen  
shall, as to the Causes by them severally cognizable, have the  
same Powers and Authorities, and proceed in the same Man-  
ner as Justices of the Peace, now, or hereafter, by Law shall  
have and proceed. Same power as  
justices.



Appeal allowed  
to the next city  
court.

And an Appeal shall be allowed from the Judgment or Determination of said Mayor and Aldermen, in any Cause by them cognizable severally, to the next City Court to be holden within said City, in all Causes in which an Appeal is now or hereafter shall be allowed from the Judgment of a Justice of the Peace; the prevailing Party however, if Plaintiff, may, such Appeal notwithstanding, take out Execution on such Judgment, provided he gives Bond before the Mayor of said City, or one of the Judges of said Court, in the same Manner as is provided in Cases of Appeal from said City Court.

Where the  
plaintiff lives  
without, or is a  
mariner, &c. no  
appeal.

And in every Action brought before the Mayor or either of the Aldermen of said City, in which the Plaintiff lives without the Limits of said City, or in which the Plaintiff is a Mariner or Seaman suing for Wages due to him for Services in his Occupation, and the Defendant lives within the Limits of said City, no Appeal shall be allowed the Defendant.

Taxable fees,  
&c.

And the taxable Fees in all Causes cognizable by the Mayor, or by one of the Aldermen of said City severally, shall be the same as the taxable Fees in like Cases, before Justices of the Peace: And the Proceffes in all Actions brought to said City Court, shall be the same as the Proceffes to the County Courts in this State; and the Proceffes in all actions brought before the Mayor or one of the Aldermen of said City, shall be the same as the Proceffes in Actions brought before a Justice of the Peace, and be signed by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or one of the Assistants of this State, or by a Justice of the Peace, within and for the County of *New-Haven*, or by the Mayor or one of the Aldermen of said City, or the Clerk of the said City Court, and shall be served by a Sheriff, Deputy-Sheriff, or constable, to whom directed, according to the Laws of the State, and the Provisions of this Act. And all Bonds for Prosecution taken by any of said Officers hereby impowered to sign Writs, shall be good and

Processes the  
same as to the  
county court.

By whom  
signed, and  
served.

effectual in Law. And Bonds for Prosecution, special Bail, and Bonds for Appeal, shall be taken to the adverse Party: Provided nevertheless, That no Writs (Executions excepted) or Process, signed by the Mayor, or either of the Aldermen, shall be of any effect without the Limits of said City.

Bonds for prosecution, &c.

except, &c.

*And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid,*

That the said Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council, shall on the first Monday of *July* annually, meet, and shall then chuse One Hundred and Forty-four Freemen of said City, to serve as Jurors at said City Court, and shall return the Names of said Jurors, under the Hand of the Mayor of said City, if present, or in case of his Absence, under the Hand of the senior Alderman present at such meeting, to the Clerk of said City Court, who shall write each Juror's Name thus chosen, fairly on a separate Piece of Paper, and roll up and put the same into a Box, which he shall provide and keep for that Purpose; and whenever either of the Sheriffs of said City shall receive a Warrant from the Clerk of the City Court, to summon a Jury to appear before said Court, the Sheriff receiving such Warrant, taking with him one of the Aldermen of said City, shall repair to the said Clerk's Office, and there in the Presence of said Alderman and Clerk, shall take out of said Box twelve of said Papers, and the Persons whose Names shall be found written therein, shall be summoned to appear before the Court, to which the Warrant is returnable, to serve as Jurors; and in case of neglecting to attend, shall be liable to such penalties as shall by the Bye-Laws of said City be inflicted for such Neglect; and in case a complete Pannel shall not attend, or in case any shall be challenged or excused, the Sheriff attending said Court, shall supply such Deficiency, by drawing in the presence of the Court, others out of said Box, and summoning them to attend and serve, until the Pannel shall be complete; and the Names of such Jurors as do not attend, or are excused, shall be returned into the Box,

Jurymen how and when chosen.

Names of the jurors to be returned to, &c.

Clerk to write the jurors names on, &c.

Jurors how drawn.

Jurors neglecting to attend. If not a complete pannel, others drawn, &c.  
Jurors not attending, &c.

Jurors oath to be, &c.

The name of each juror attending, &c. Liable to be drawn again.

The city to chuse a clerk.

The mayor, &c. to lay out highways &c. or alter those already laid out, &c.

Power to exchange or sell the N. W. part of the green, S. E. side so remain a public walk.

and be liable to be drawn again. And the Oath to be taken by said Jurors shall be the same as is by Law provided to be taken by Jurors in civil Actions. And the Name of each Juror that attends any City Court and serves, shall be again written on a separate Piece of Paper, and shall be rolled up and put into another Box, which the Clerk of said Court shall provide for that Purpose, and shall be liable to be drawn again, in Case there shall not, by Reason of Death, Removal, or other Cause, be a Sufficiency in the other Box, to Complete the Pannels for that Year, in which they are chosen to serve.

And the said City may chuse a Clerk of said City, who shall make true and regular Entries of all the Votes and Proceedings of said City, and the Records by him kept shall be of the same Validity in Point of Evidence, in any Court of Law in this State, as the Records of Towns are.

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council be, and they are hereby empowered to lay out new Highways, Streets and public Walks for the Use of said City, or to alter those already laid out in said City, and to exchange Highways for Highways, or to sell Highways for the Purpose of purchasing other Highways, taking the same Measures in all Respects, as are directed by the Laws of this State to be taken, in case of Highways laid out by the Select-men for the Use of their Towns, and the Party aggrieved by the laying out of such Streets or Highways, may have the same Remedy by Application to the County Court, as is by Law provided in cases of Highways laid out by Select-men.

And said City shall have Power to exchange that Part of the Green in said *New-Haven*, lying North-westerly of the public Buildings, for other Land or Highways, or another Green, and to sell and dispose thereof for the same Purpose; and that Part of said Green lying on the South-easterly Side

of said public Buildings, shall forever be and remain a common or public Walk, and never be liable to be laid out in Highways, or appropriated to any other Purpose.

*And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That in case any Sheriff, Deputy-Sheriff or Constable, shall not serve a Writ directed to, and received by him, that is returnable to said City Court, or shall neglect to make Return of said Writ, or shall make false or undue Return thereof, and a Suit shall for such Default, be brought against him to the said City Court by the Person or his Executor or Administrator, in whose Favour said Writ issued, and the Defendant be found in Default; the said Court, over and above awarding just Damages to the Plaintiff, may, on said Suit, set a suitable Fine upon the Defendant, according to the Nature of the Case, and may issue Execution for such Fine; which Fine shall be to the Treasurer of said City, to and for the Use of said City.

City court may  
fine Sheriffs,  
&c.

And in all Cases wherein the Defendant who is sued to the said City Court, lives within the Limits of said City, the Writ shall be served upon him at least six Days before the Day of the sitting of the Court to which the Writ is returnable; but if the Defendant lives without the Limits of said City, the Writ shall be served at least twelve Days before the sitting of said Court; and all Writs returnable to said City Court, shall be returned to the Clerk of said Court on the Day of the sitting of said Court, and before the first opening of said Court.

Fines to be  
paid to the city  
treasurer.  
If the defendant  
lives in the city,  
the writ to be  
served 6 days  
before court,  
&c. if without,  
12 days.

And the Writs that are returnable before the Mayor or either of the Aldermen, shall, if the Plaintiff and Defendant both live within the Limits of, or, if the Plaintiff lives without and the Defendant lives within the Limits of said City, or if the Plaintiff be a Mariner or Seaman suing for Wages due to him for Services in his Occupation, and the Defendant lives within the Limits of said City, be served upon the

Writs return-  
able before the  
mayor, &c.

Defendant at least three Days before the sitting of the Court to which it is returnable; but if the Defendant lives without the Limits of said City, the Writ shall be served upon the Defendant at least six Days before the sitting of the Court to which it is returnable.

Mayor, &c. to be sworn.

*And be it further Enacted*, That the Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, Common Council and Clerk of said City, shall be sworn to a faithful Discharge of their Duty; and the Form of the Oath to be taken by the Mayor of said City shall be as follows, viz.

Form of the oath.

*YOU being elected Mayor of the City of New Haven, do swear by the Name of the Everliving God, that you will, without any Partiality, indifferently administer Justice, according to Law, without respect of Persons, take no Bribe, give no Counsel in any Matter that shall come before you, nor deny Right to any, but well and truly perform your Office of Mayor of said City, according to your best Skill.*

So help you GOD.

Aldermen to be sworn.

And the Form of the Oath to be taken by the Aldermen of said City, shall be the same *mutatis mutandis* as is prescribed by Law to be taken by Justices of the Peace.

And the Form of the Oath to be taken by the Common Councilmen of said City, shall be as follows, viz.

Form of an oath.

*YOU being elected a Common Council-man for the City of New-Haven, for the Year ensuing, Do swear by the Name of the Everliving God, that you will faithfully and uprightly discharge the Duties of that Office, so long as you shall hold the same.*

So help you GOD.

Sheriffs to take an oath.

And the Form of the Oath to be taken by the Sheriffs of said City, shall be the same prescribed by Law to be taken by the Sheriffs *mutatis mutandis*.

And the Form of the Oath to be taken by the Clerk of said City, shall be as follows, viz.

*YOU* being chosen Clerk of the City of New-Haven, Do swear by the Name of the Everliving GOD, that you will truly and faithfully attend and execute the Place and Office of Clerk of said City, according to your best Skill, and make true Entries and Records of all the Votes and Proceedings of said City, and such other Matters as by Law, or the Bye-Laws of said City, are to be recorded in your Office; and that you will deliver true Copies of the Records in your Hands, when they shall be required of you, taking only your lawful Fees.

Clerk's oath.

So help you GOD.

Which Oaths may be administered by any Assistant of this State, or Justice of the Peace within and for the County of New-Haven, or by the Mayor, or either of the Aldermen of said City; provided the Mayor or Alderman administering the Oath has been sworn according to this Act.

By whom administered.

And the Person administering the Oath prescribed by this Act, shall give a Certificate thereof under his Hand, to the Officer to whom he administers such Oath, which Certificate shall be recorded in the Records of said City, before the Person to whom it is given shall be capable of executing the Office to which he is chosen.

Certificate to be given,

and recorded.

*And be it further Enacted,* That there shall be a Court of Common Council of said City, of which the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of said City shall be Members, who, or the major Part of them, shall have Power to make Bye-Laws, relative to Markets and Commerce within the Limits of said City; relative to Persons summoned to serve as Jurors at said City Court, and neglecting to attend or refusing to serve; relative to the Streets and Highways of said City; relative to Nuisances in said Limits; relative to their Wharves, anchoring and mooring of Vessels; relative to Trees planted for Shade, Ornament, Convenience, or Use,

Power to make bye-laws.

public or private, and to the Fruit of such Trees; relative to Trespasses committed in Gardens; relative to public Walks, and Buildings public or private; to the sweeping of Chimnies, and preventing said City from Fire; relative to Forms of Oaths to be taken by the Treasurer of said City, and Inspectors of Produce brought to said City for Sale or Exportation; relative to the Manner of warning Meetings of said City and the Court of Common Council, and the Time when and Place where they shall be holden; relative to the Qualifications in Point of Property of the Mayor and Aldermen; relative to the Bonds to be given by Sheriffs of said City for a faithful Discharge of their Duty; relative to the Penalties to be incurred by those, who, being chosen to any City Office (and not being excused by the City), shall refuse to serve; relative to a City Watch; relative to the burial of the Dead; relative to the public Lights and Lamps of said City; relative to restraining Geese and Swine from going at large within the Limits of said City; and relative to the Mode of Taxation as to Taxes levied by said City; and to inflict Penalties for the Breach of such Bye-Laws: Provided however, that such Penalties shall in no Case exceed Ten Pounds lawful Money; and said Penalties shall be to such Persons as the Bye-Laws of said City shall direct, and be recoverable by the Persons to whom forfeited, by Action of Debt brought to the City Court of said City, in which Action no Appeal or Review shall be allowed: Provided however, that no Bye-Laws of said City shall be made repugnant to the Laws of this State. And the catching of Fish and Oysters within the Limits of said City, shall not be liable to be regulated, or in any way affected by the Bye-Laws of said City.

To inflict pecuniary penalties, not exceeding 10l.

Penalties to be so, &c.

Recovered by, &c.

No appeal. Proviso.

Catching of fish, &c.

And provided also, That all the Bye-Laws made by said Court of Common Council, shall be approved by said City in legal Meeting assembled, and after being so approved, shall

be published at least three Weeks successively in some public Newf-paper, in or near said City, before the same shall be of any Validity.

Bye-Laws to be published.

And all the Bye-Laws of said City, shall at any Time within six Months after they are made, be liable to be repealed by any Superior Court holden in said County of *New-Haven*, if by such Superior Court, on a Hearing, judged to be unreasonable or unjust.

Liable to be repealed, by, &c. if, &c.

And all Grants and Leases of any real Estate belonging to said City, signed by the Mayor of said City, and sealed with the City Seal, and approved by said City in legal Meeting assembled, shall be good and effectual in Law, to convey the Estate intended to be conveyed by such Grant or Lease; provided the same is recorded in the Records of the Town where the Land leased or granted lies.

Grants and leases signed by the mayor, &c.

And said City shall have Power to appoint Inspectors of every Kind of Produce of the United States, brought to said City for Sale or Exportation.

Inspectors of produce.

And the Vote or Choice of the major Part of the Freemen present at any legal Meeting of said City, shall be considered in all Cases, as the Vote or Choice of said City.

Vote of the major part of the freemen, valid.

And whenever the Mayor of said City, or any other Officers of said City, eligible by the freemen thereof shall resign, or be removed by Death, or otherwise, another Person shall be chosen in his Place by said City; and (if an annual Officer) shall continue in Office till the Expiration of the Month of *June* next following, unless another shall be sooner chosen and sworn in his stead.

In case of death, &c. of any officer, &c.

And the Mayor of said City, or in his Absence, the senior Alderman present at any meeting of said City, or at any Court of Common Council, shall, *ex Officio*, be Moderator thereof. And the Meetings of said City may, from Time to Time, by a major Vote of the Freemen present, be adjourned.

Mayor, or &c. to be moderator of the city meeting which may be adjourned.



*And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid,*  
 That the first Meeting of said City shall be holden at the  
 State-House in said *New-Haven*, on the tenth Day of *February*  
 next, at nine of the Clock in the Forenoon, for the  
 choice of the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council and  
 Sheriffs of said City, and to transact such other Business as  
 may be necessary; which Meeting may be from Time to  
 Time adjourned. And a Copy of this Paragraph of this  
 Act, certified under the Hand of the Secretary of this State,  
 and published on the Sign-Post in the Town of *New-Haven*  
 at least three Days before said tenth Day of *February*, shall  
 be a legal Warning of the Freemen of said City to attend  
 said first Meeting: And the annual Officers chosen at said  
 Meeting, shall continue in Office until the Expiration of next  
*June*, unless others are sooner chosen and qualified in their  
 Stead.

First meeting.

Annual officers  
to continue, &c.  
until &c.

First meeting to  
chuse a clerk,

And the said City shall, at such Meeting, first chuse a  
 Clerk of said City, who shall be immediately sworn, and  
 shall forthwith make a Record of his being chosen and sworn,  
 and the Records thus made by him in such Case, shall be  
 good and effectual; any Thing in this Act to the contrary  
 notwithstanding. And such Record may be made by the  
 Clerks hereafter chosen, of their being chosen and sworn, and  
 shall be good and effectual; any Thing in this Act to the  
 contrary notwithstanding. And said City shall thereupon  
 proceed to chuse a Mayor, and the other Officers of said  
 City eligible by the Freemen thereof. And the Justices of  
 the Peace within and for the County of *New-Haven*, living  
 and inhabiting within the limits of said City, and present at  
 such first Meeting, shall have, as to the Election of the Mayor,  
 Aldermen, Sheriffs, Common Councilmen and Clerk of said  
 City, the same Powers, and proceed in the same Manner as  
 the Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs of said City, by this Act

then the mayor,  
&c.

Power of Jus-  
tices living  
within the lim-  
its, &c.

are to have and proceed in at the future Elections of said City.

And the senior Justice of the Peace, within and for the County of *New-Haven*, living within the Limits of said City, present at said first Meeting, shall be Moderator thereof, until there shall be a Mayor or Aldermen chosen and qualified according to this Act.

First moderator.

And said City shall at their first Meeting appoint a Time and Place for holding the first Court of Common Council; which Court shall have Power to adjourn from Time to Time. And the first City Court of said City shall be holden on the second Tuesday of *April* next, at the State-House in said City. And the City Courts of said City may be holden in said State-House from Time to Time, or in such other place in said City as said City shall provide and judge proper.

First city court to be holden 2d Tuesday of April.

And the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of said City shall on the second Tuesday of *March* next, at three of the Clock in the Afternoon, hold a Meeting at the State-House, in said *New-Haven*; and shall then and there, chuse forty-eight Freemen of said City, to serve as Jurors, until after the first Monday of *July* next; and the Name of each Person thus chosen, shall be fairly written on a separate Piece of Paper, and shall be put into the Jury-Box, by this Act to be provided by the Clerk of said City Court, and shall be drawn out, in the Manner herein before provided, with respect to Jurors.

Mayor, &c. on the 2d Tuesday of March, to chuse 48 jurors.

*Always provided*, That any Thing in this Act, notwithstanding, the Inhabitants living within the Limits of said City, shall to all Intents and Purposes, be, and remain a Part of the Town of *New-Haven*.

Proviso.

And that nothing herein contained, shall be construed to affect any of the corporation Rights of the Corporation of Yale-College.

Yale-College.

Proviso,

*Provided nevertheless,* That if any of the Provisions in this Act contained, shall be found inconvenient, or in any Respect inadequate, the same, on Representation of the City or otherwise, may be altered or revoked by the General Assembly.

Public Act.

And this Act shall, to all Intents and Purposes, be a public Act.

[*This Act was passed by the General Assembly, at their Sessions holden in New-Haven, on the eighth Day of January, One thousand seven hundred and eighty-four.*]

## THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

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*[From the New Haven Daily Palladium, July 5, 1884.]*

Rated according to the number of spectators in attendance, New Haven's Centennial celebration was one of the largest and most successful affairs of the kind ever witnessed in this State. Certainly our city never had more people within her borders than were assembled yesterday, and the celebration itself was fully up to the most sanguine expectation. Barring the postponement of the evening fireworks, made necessary by the rain, the celebration was a success, worthy of the notable occasion, and in every way creditable to the city. The procession was remarkable, not only for its size, but particularly for the interesting display made of New Haven's varied industries.

The oration of the day, by the Rev. Thomas R. Bacon, was a masterly production. It is the most valuable addition to our local historical literature made since the memorable address of the reverend gentleman's honored and lamented father, delivered from the same pulpit on a similar occasion, five years ago.

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*[From the New Haven Evening Register, July 5, 1884.]*

Fourth of July, 1884, which ushered in the Centennial anniversary of the city of New Haven, has passed away, but the memory of it will live for many years in the minds of those, whose good fortune it was to participate in its enjoyment. It is not enough to say that the day was a success. It was more than that. It went beyond the successful accomplishment of a specific purpose. It not only fitly commemorated the birth year of the city, which was a matter of self-congratulation to every one, but by its immense proportions in the way of a display, aroused a new interest in the welfare of the city and inspired a new and a better patriotism in the heart of every one. The procession was

the principal feature of the celebration. That it surpassed the expectations of all, is a statement of fact. The military display was excellent, as was also the display of the civic societies of the city, the fire department display, the display of the bicycle clubs, and the display of the other organizations participating. The merchants' display was especially creditable. Many branches of industry were represented by elaborately decorated cars and wagons, and while some were handsomer and more ingenious than others, each was a credit unto itself. The general committee deserve the thanks of the public for the completeness of their work. It is to the efforts of the members of this committee, and more especially to its officers, that the success of yesterday was as great as it was. The city appropriation was small and the subscriptions not large, so that in view of the breadth and width of the celebration, the result proved that the best arts of financing were brought into play. As we have said above, the celebration was a credit to the city and to all concerned. Let us hope that the two hundredth celebration will be able to tell the same eloquent story of New Haven's progress for the second hundredth year of its existence, as yesterday's celebration told the story of New Haven's progress during its first hundred years.

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[*From the New Haven Journal and Courier, July 5, 1884.*]

Up to the time when it began to rain yesterday, "the Fourth" had been perhaps more glorious than any yet celebrated in New Haven. The people of this city and vicinity awoke yesterday morning—that is, such of them as had been able to sleep—and found the heat of the summer sun tempered by a pleasant, cool wind, which continued to blow all day and did much to keep the great crowds in a comfortable frame of mind. The procession in the morning was a great success. It started on time, and went through its course easily and in good order. It was exceedingly picturesque and interesting, and will be long remembered by the thousands who saw it. Those who worked to make it a success deserve a great deal of credit, from the grand marshal down to the high privates in the rear rank. The exercises in Center Church in the afternoon were very appropriate throughout, and Rev. Mr. Bacon's oration was a notable one. Nothing was lacking to make the gloriousness of the celebration complete, but an evening not

too damp for fireworks, and this could not be had. Nevertheless, "the Centennial" was a great affair.

The city wore a holiday appearance in every section. In every direction flags and trimmings were displayed. The center was gay enough with national flags of all sizes, streamers, festoons and lines of small flags, and many places were quite elaborately trimmed and decorated. All the incoming trains brought loads of people, who came as sight-seers, independent of the organizations from out of the city, which took part in the parade. The hotels were filled to overflowing and the demands on the cuisine departments of hotels and restaurants were such as to nearly exhaust, before night, the large supplies of provisions laid in, in preparation.

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[*From the New Haven Union, July 5, 1884.*]

The double celebration yesterday of the Fourth of July and of the Centennial of New Haven, as an incorporated city, was more glorious than many persons had anticipated. Rarely has so large a procession been more skillfully managed than was that of yesterday, under the marshaling of General S. R. Smith and his assistant marshals. The singing by the pupils of the High School was much enjoyed and reflected great credit on Prof. Jepson, their instructor. The day fireworks, a novel exhibition here, gave great pleasure to the people on the green, numbering from ten to fifteen thousand. But where there were so many features of special interest, it is difficult to give prominence in a report, intended to be brief, to any one in particular.

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[*From the Morning News, July 5, 1884.*]

The morning was all that could be desired, for the thermometer had fallen several degrees, and a refreshing breeze blew over the city and gently ruffled the bunting and ensign drapery with which the houses and stores along the line of march were handsomely decorated.

Many thousands of visitors were in New Haven. They came from almost every town and village within a radius of a hundred miles and disposed themselves along the streets and on the stands, erected at various points, for the benefit of spectators of the parade.

The procession was a fine one, excelling, in length, anything New Haven has previously had.

